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FROM

Francis P. Fisher,
of Chicago, Ill.

21 July, 1885.

REPORT

U. S. 5923.5-55

—OF THE—

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

—OF THE—

FIFTY-FIFTH ILLINOIS

VETERAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,

AT THEIR

FIRST RE-UNION

HELD AT

CANTON, ILL., OCT. 30, & 31, 1884.

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For name, see p. 18.

REPORT

—OF THE—

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Society —OF THE— surviving members,

FIFTY-FIFTH ILLINOIS

VETERAN VOLUNTEER INFANTRY,

AT THEIR

FIRST RE-UNION

HELD AT

CANTON, ILL., OCT. 30, & 31, 1884.

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Francis J. Fisher,
Chicago.



OFFICERS OF ASSOCIATION.

President,

D. C. ANDRESS, - - - - Mendota, Ills.

Secretary,

H. H. JOSLIN, - - - - Durand, Ills.

Assistant Secretary,

JOSEPH HARTSOOK, - - - - Davenport, Iowa.

Treasurer.

WM. J. HARELL, - - - - Canton, Ills.

Vice-Presidents.

Company A,	HENRY AUGUSTINE,	Normal, Ills.
" B,	JOHN T. McAULEY,	Chicago, Ills.
" C,	ROBERT OLIVER,	Rockford, Ills.
" D,	JACOB FINK,	Smithfield, Ills.
" E,	HENRY KAISER,	Waverly, Iowa.
" F,	A. B. WETZEL,	Adair, Ills.
" G,	PETER ROBERTS,	Washington, Iowa.
" H,	J. AUGUST SMITH,	Forreston, Ills.
" I,	T. SLATTERY,	Onarga, Ills.
" K,	JAMES KAYES,	Abingdon, Ills.

P R E F A C E.

SINCE the close of the war, several unsuccessful efforts have been made to bring about a re-union of the survivors of the 55th Regiment Illinois Vet. Vol. Infantry. To Company "C" belongs the credit of having taken the first step, which resulted in our late re-union. On the 25th of January 1884, a few of the comrades of Company C met at the residence of Robert Oliver, in Harrison, Winnebago County, Ills., and organized a society of the surviving members of Company C, choosing comrade Robert Oliver as President, and comrade H. H. Joslin as Secretary.

At a subsequent meeting and dinner of the society, at Durand, Ills., on the 28th of the same month, it was proposed by comrade Joslin, that a re-union of the Regiment be held some time in October, 1884, and that a notice thereof be inserted in the National Tribune of March 6th following. This was done and correspondence was solicited, and as a result of this happy initiative, a preliminary meeting was called at Canton, Ills., on the 14th of May. The Association there organized selected D. C. Andress, of Mendota, Ills., as President, H. H. Joslin, of Durand, Ills., as Secretary, Jacob Fink, of Smithfield, Ills., as Assistant Secretary, and Wm. J. Harell, of Canton, Ills., as Treasurer.

It was resolved that the Regimental Re-union be held at Canton, Ills., on the 30th and 31st of October 1884. Comrade John G. Brown was requested to prepare a history of the Regiment, while in the service, to be read at the Re-union. Telegrams were received from comrade Henry Augustine and Chaplain M. L. Haney, expressing their regrets at not being able to be present, and their hearty approval of the object of the meeting. All ex-soldiers of Fulton County were cordially invited to join in the proposed Re-union, and especially all members of the first Brigade, second division, Fifteenth Army Corps. It was resolved that invitations be also extended to Generals, William T. Sherman and John A. Logan to be present.

PROCEEDINGS.

CANTON, ILL., OCT. 30, 1884.

A bright and cloudless autumn day ushered in the first re-union of the survivors of the Fifty-fifth Regiment Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry. Some of the comrades had arrived the night before, and at 9 A. M. they formed in line in front of the "Churchill House," with the President of the Society, D. C. Andress, in command, and marched to the C. B. & Q. R. R. Depot, to receive comrades arriving on the 9.52 train.

The Fourth Regiment Band (some of whose members were attached to the Fifty-fifth Regimental Band in 1861) escorted the veterans in their march. As the train rolled in, the comrades arriving were greeted with the old familiar song, "John Brown's body hangs swinging in the air." The Conductor of the train, who by the way was an ex-confederate soldier, greeted the boys with a hearty hand shake, saying he wished he could join in our re-union—but his duties would not permit, and the train pulled out with his hearty "God bless you, and make your re-union a complete success." The line of march was thence to the Wabash & St. Louis Depot, where other comrades joined the column. From the Wabash Depot, the procession moved back to the Hotel, and around the Public Square to the Opera House, where ranks were broken and a general greeting time indulged in until noon. The lapse of nearly a quarter of a century had wrought its changes in the appearance of most of the veterans—while a few were so well preserved that we should have known them among a thousand. A few hours together brought back the old looks and ways, and revived the stirring memories of younger days. Names and faces that long absence had effaced from the memory came back vividly, and we were once again a band of brothers.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon the Citizens of Canton for the generous and royal welcome extended to the visitors. *Not only the 55th, but many other State organizations, such as the 8th, 17th, 42d, and 103d infantry, and the 7th and 11th Cavalry, were largely recruited from Fulton County, and she feels a just pride in the record

*There were enlisted in Fulton County, for the 55th Ills. Infantry alone, 183 men.

of all of her devoted sons. Money and provisions had been liberally contributed, and during the two days of the Re-union, the tables were spread in Grand Army Hall, and loaded with supplies of every kind for all ex-soldiers, their wives and children. It seemed as if the ladies could not do enough for us, and all were made to feel that they were among friends.

At 1.30 o'clock p. m., the re-union services were formally opened at the Opera House, and President D. C. Andress called the meeting to order in a few happy remarks, after which prayer was offered by the Rev. E. McClish, invoking God's blessing upon the survivors of the old 55th in re-union assembled. After music by the band of the Fourth Regiment, a temporary organization was effected by the choice of the following officers:

<i>President,</i>	-	-	D. C. ANDRESS,	-	-	Mendota, Ills.
<i>Secretary,</i>	-	-	H. H. JOSLIN,	-	-	Durand, Ills.
<i>Assistant Secretary,</i>	-	-	JOSEPH HARTSOOK,	-	-	Davenport, Iowa.
<i>Treasurer,</i>	-	-	Wm. J. HARELL,	-	-	Canton, Ills.

On motion each company was called on to designate one vice-president, with the following result:

Vice-Presidents.

Company A,	-	HENRY AUGUSTINE,	-	-	Normal, Ills.
" B,	-	JOHN T. McAULEY,	-	-	Chicago, Ills.
" C,	-	ROBERT OLIVER,	-	-	Rockford, Ills.
" D,	-	JACOB FINK,	-	-	Smithfield, Ills.
" E,	-	HENRY KAISER,	-	-	Waverly, Iowa.
" F,	-	A. B. WETZEL,	-	-	Adair, Ills.
" G,	-	PETER ROBERTS,	-	-	Washington, Iowa.
" H,	-	J. AUGUST SMITH,	-	-	Forreston, Ills.
" I,	-	T. SLATTERY,	-	-	Onarga, Ills.
" K,	-	JAMES KAYES,	-	-	Abingdon, Ills.

On motion the following committees were appointed by the President.

On permanent organization: Henry Augustine, John T. McAuley, Robert Oliver, Joseph Presson and Fred Ebersold.

On constitution and by-laws: John G. Brown, Joseph Hartsook, Robert Oliver and John T. McAuley.

The comrades then joined in singing "Marching through Georgia," accompanied by the band.

As the committee on Reception were not quite ready, a recess was taken, and the comrades formed in line in front of the Opera House, and preceded by the Band, marched through the principal streets of the city in the presence of hundreds of spectators, who lined the

thoroughfares, and complimented the "old veterans" upon their soldierly bearing, after a lapse of so many years, since they were in actual service. Returning to the Opera House, the visiting soldiers were received by the following Reception Committee on the part of the citizens of Canton: Col. J. M. Snyder, C. D. Hoblitt, S. Y. Thornton, C. E. Snively, Capt. A. B. Smith, W. H. Shaw, William Babcock Jr., William Parlin, D. Abbott, A. Davison, D. W. Maple, I. N. Ross, W. J. Orendorff, E. H. Curtis, Major J. R. Herring, W. D. Plattenberg, W. O. Dean, J. Krischke, W. W. Ellis, and C. T. Heald.

After prayer by the Rev. A. R. Mathes, Capt. F. M. Grant was introduced by the President, and on behalf of the citizens of Canton, welcomed the visitors to the hospitalities of the city in the following eloquent and touching address:

**MR. CHAIRMAN, FELLOW SOLDIERS OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH ILLINOIS,
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:**

The very pleasing task has been assigned to me of welcoming to the hearts and homes of the people of Canton the meagre remnant of your once proud and glorious regiment. But how am I straightened to fitly perform this duty?

As I came with you to this hall, and as I stood a moment ago, and listened to the singing of your old song, "Marching Through Georgia," my heart, in unison with yours, became too full for utterance. When the remains of the first Napoleon were brought back from St. Helena to be deposited in their final resting place among the people he claimed to love so well; as the grand catafalque bearing his silent dust approached the church *Des Invalides*, appropriated for his final tomb, the old soldiers surviving, who had followed his fortunes from Montebello to Waterloo, were delegated to receive the remains of their once beloved Emperor. The eagles, decked in crape, that they had so often borne to victory, were there and the waiving of standards and the old familiar music of the bands recalled the days when they moved to battle, and as those scenes through which they had passed a quarter of a century and more before, again came back in such a sudden and overwhelming tide, that with falling tears and bowed heads, in becoming silence—more eloquent than speech—they received back again the ashes of their dead idol. So to-day, standing in the presence of these heroes, I feel that, perhaps, silence is more becoming than lengthened speech.

It is nearly a quarter of a century since the bursting shell and crashing shot against the walls of Sumpter announced to a startled nation that the slaveholders' conspiracy had culminated in a traitorous attack upon the country and its flag. Then the issue was made up, whether the government received from our fathers, in trust, was to be transmitted to our children unimpaired; or, whether it was to go down in darkness and in blood, the last experiment of man to remain free and govern himself. With what keen delight did the tyrants of the old

world anticipate the overthrow of the Great Republic! But the end was not yet. The deathless story of its vitality and latent power was yet to be written for future generations to read. Mr. Lincoln, called to the executive chair by constitutional methods, made his appeal to the people for them to rescue the government of their fathers. How they responded to that appeal history will ever delight to tell. At this call of your country, thus voiced by the chief executive, you left your various avocations and gathered into the sufficient complement of companies constituting your regimental organization. Impatiently you awaited the order to leave the state of your homes and loves, and march southward into Dixie. It came at last. Can you ever forget that day when you bid adieu to fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children, and those sustaining even dearer relations to you, and march to the Southland, assured that battle, wounds, sufferings or death only awaited you there? Oh, never! while memory is yours, can you forget that sad, and to many of your comrades, final parting. But neither the gloom of that hour nor forebodings for the future could lessen your cheerful readiness to go wherever your country called you. At first assigned to routine duty, you waited "with hearts bowed down," in common with your countrymen, for the coming of the long-desired, long-promised victory. How you were made glad when it came at last, under the leadership of that grand soldier, General George H. Thomas, and his brave men at Mill Springs. You leaned forward to catch the first sound of the booming guns at Forts Henry and Donelson, restive that you were not permitted to share in the dangers nor be crowned with the laurels of those victories. But your hour of trial was soon to come. On the 6th and 7th of April, 1862, you received your first "baptism of fire" upon the blood-drenched soil of Shiloh. The brigade to which your regiment was attached, after the desertion of the Seventy-First Ohio and a few other stragglers, numbered less than 800 muskets. Without artillery support, and with your "flanks in the air," bravely you bore up against the assault of an entire division of Confederate infantry aided by one, and part of the time by two batteries of artillery, and fought on, hour after hour; and when compelled to fall back before such overpowering force, your retreat was marked by the trail of your pursuers lying in winrows—dead and dying upon the field. Thus for hours, this regiment with the Fifty-Fourth Ohio, and seventeen men of the 71st Ohio, under the command of the brave adjutant of that regiment, continued to fight, and when your cartridges became exhausted, you carried on the combat with ammunition taken from the boxes of your dead and wounded comrades.

These were precious hours to your country and its cause—vibrating upon the issues of the overshadowing contest. Who can tell what would have been the far-reaching consequences had Hardee succeeded in outflanking Grant's entire force by driving your brigade from the position held by it in the afternoon of the first day's fight? Surely you did then, and do now "deserve well of your country." How bravely you fought is told in the long array of killed and wounded which fell that day! Two hundred and forty-eight in killed and wounded alone—one-half of your entire regiment—is the proud story, which your country delights to exhibit in the records of the war de-

partment at Washington. Matchless bravery! equalled by few and surpassed by none!

Passing from that field of disaster but final triumph, you aided in the capture of Corinth and in the attack upon Chickasaw Bayou. You participated in the surrender of Arkansas Post and Haines' Bluff; the battles of Raymond, Champion Hills, Black River and Vicksburg are inscribed upon your flag, attested your valor and demonstrated that the glory that you won at Shiloh, you were to bear with you in every contest against armed treason. The months sped swiftly on, and in the autumn of 1863, your old-timed deliverers of Shiloh—the army of the Cumberland—shut up and starving in beleaguered Chattanooga, sent forth to you their Macedonian cry—"come over and help us." Nor had they long to wait, for soon, like the sound of the Scottish bagpipes from the van of the relieving force to the besieged garrison at Lucknow, there came rolling up the valley of the Tennessee, beating nearer and yet nearer, the drums of Champion Hills and Shiloh—it was the army of the Tennessee—the Fifteenth corps, the Fifty-Fifth Illinois Infantry—marching all the weary way from the far-off banks of the Mississippi to pay the debt incurred to their loved and never forgotten comrades, who had, in like manner hastened to their relief on the night of the first day at Shiloh. Soon you were in line of battle with your relieved comrades, and the matchless stories of Mission Ridge and Lookout Mountain were inscribed on the pages of your country's history. There they will stand forever. Without stopping to rest your tired and blistered feet, you followed your trusted leader, General W. T. Sherman, into East Tennessee and raised the seige of Knoxville; returning by easy marches to Chattanooga you stripped for the mighty wrestle in the coming campaign of Atlanta, and as the genial warmth of May came back again, you once more took your places in the line and struck stalwart blows for your country's cause by an active participation in nearly all of the battles and skirmishes through the dearly won defiles and mountain ridges of northern Georgia, from Rocky Face to Jonesboro, culminating at last in the triumph of your valor by the Gate City of the South being torn from the grasp of treason—"yours, and fairly won." As the frosts of November returned you received with glad cheers the announcement

"Boys, up and be ready!
For Sherman will march to the sea."

With elastic step you followed your great commander down through the pine forests of Georgia, and, emerging, at last, before the frowning battlements of Fort McAllister, with gleaming bayonets and ranks aligned, you swept over them and tore down the traitor flag floating there and lighted your Christmas bivouac-fires in fair Savannah. When the sun, from its winter's solstice, turned northward, you followed it—up through the Carolinas—imposing the fearful penalty of fire and devastation upon the fomentors of rebellion, for their children and their children's children to read through all coming time. Your last oblation of blood was poured out with the old-time fullness and freedom at Bentonville.

The surrender of Lee and Johnston quickly followed, and the war was over. Your work was done, and well done. Marching up to and

passing in review at Washington, the order for your muster out was received, and the hour for the last good-bye to comrades, tried in danger and in suffering, came.

How impotent is human speech to describe the feelings pervading your hearts at that hour! Only a true soldier knows what they were. Nearly twenty years have passed away since you parted from your comrades and your regimental organization became merged in the great sea of common citizenship—a citizenship which you had done so much to dignify and ennable; and now to-day you meet again after the elapse of these two decades, here in Canton, to talk over again your old marches and fight over again your old battles. You have a right to be happy—joyously happy—in your meeting. It was a grand thing to have been permitted to live at all in those epochal years of the republic, but it was grander still to have acted a manly part in them. There is, my comrades, an estate higher and more valuable than the acquisition of mere material wealth, the fee simple of which is laid up in every true soldier's heart—it is the consciousness of duty worthily done, as the tides of victory and defeat ebbed and flowed through all of those four eventful years.

It is not strange that you should love each other so well, that you have come from the far East and the far West to here renew once more those chains of affection, forged first in the flames of war and the heat of battle. Through a community of suffering you thus learned to love each other, and because of all they suffered, the nation's heart is ever tender and warm towards its defenders—the boys in blue. That suffering begets sympathy is the law of civilized society and is reciprocal in its character. The great dramatist has placed in the mouth of Othello the source from which it flows.

“She loved me for the dangers I had passed;
And I loved her that she did pity them.”

This soldierly affection is one needing no apology. Its purity is as the mountain spring; it at once appeals to all that is noble and rebukes all that is selfish in us; to properly and reasonably commemorate the actual achievements of genuine valor, is the cultivation of true national glory, that lofty spirit which never attempts to exact more than what is right and which never submits to anything that is wrong. The cultivation of this spirit is never lost, though perchance the harvest is not reaped until the lapse of decades and centuries. The victories of Salamis and Platea would never have come to gladden the Grecian heart had not the name of Marathon with all its glory and lofty achievement lived in the lives and memories of its citizen soldiery. The English squares were aided in standing all the firmer while the artillery of Napoleon played upon them that long June day at Waterloo, by the remembrance of the national victories of Agincourt and Cressy.

There are other comrades with you here to-day, members of other Illinois regiments—representatives of the One Hundred and Third, Sixty First and Seventeenth Illinois—are here surrounding you, besides ex-soldiers from organizations of this and other states, but all of these can say with you,

By the communion of the banner,
The battle scarred, but glorious banner,
By the baptism of the banner,
Brothers of one church are we.

No creed nor party can divide us,
No sect nor nation can divide us,
And whatever may betide us,
Brothers let us ever be.

Comrades of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois, I do assure you that it is with no mere formal words we welcome you to our hearts—to our homes. We of Canton feel that you honor us in selecting this town for your first reunion. We shall try to make your stay here as pleasant as we can. It is a way we have here in Canton. We trust that this will not be your last gathering here, and as you gather here, or elsewhere, from year to year, though in the order of nature, it must be with an ever decreasing company with an ever increasing wealth of experience, yet, whether few or many gather at them, may each of these meetings be productive of the pleasure and happiness which I doubt not this has brought to you. Again I bid you thrice welcome, and may God's blessing be upon you and yours until you go hence to be here no more forever.

This beautiful and stirring address was received with great enthusiasm, by an audience of ladies and gentlemen, that filled the hall to its fullest capacity.

The Rev. Joseph Presson, of Omaha, responded to the address of welcome as follows:

MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN AND VETERAN SOLDIERS:

In reply to the eloquent and earnest address of welcome to which you have just listened, let me say that it finds in our hearts a hearty and generous response. It reminds me of the glorious doxology sung by the angels over the plains of Bethlehem "Glory to God in the highest; on earth, peace, good will to men."

It seems meet and proper that we should be here and accept this welcome, because more men of the Fifty-Fifth Regiment went from here than from any other city or town, and we are glad to know that in the hour of our country's need when the call for help was sent out, that from your farms round about, every calling and profession, you sent your husbands, sons, fathers and brothers, fair-faced boys and bearded men, whose hearts kept time to the spirit of the Union. You gave them with your hearts, your fortunes and your sacred honors to yours and to their country's service.

But again we accept this welcome so generously proffered, for the reason that the very soil on which we stand is made sacred for that it holds the dust of many of our fallen heroes, among whom I may mention that true, tried and stalwart soldier and comrade Jacob M. Augustine, Captain of Company "A," and Lieutenant Colonel elect of the Regiment, who fell while gallantly leading the bloody charge at

Kenesaw Mountain, and as I stood by his grave and those who sleep beside him this day and looked upon the sod that covers the narrow house in which they rest, these words found expression in my soul: "Beneath this sod are laid hearts once pregnant with celestial fire; hands, the rod of empire might have swayed or waked to ecstasy the living lyre." And let me further say to their honor, that the cause that led these men to battle and to death was of such a nature, and the issues depending of such wonderful moment, that I feel warranted in saying the star of their glory will never go down behind the darkened west or hide obscure among the tempests of the sky, but will only melt away in the light of heaven. The monuments reared to the memory of Napoleon, Philip of Macedon, or Alexander the Great, may and will topple and fall from their pedestals, their names and their fame cease to be remembered by the historian or sung by the lyre; but so long as the starry banner floats over an undivided republic, or a descendant of an African slave whose freedom was secured, so long will the praises of these men go ringing down the ages.

We accept this proffered hospitality and come to greet you, citizens of Canton, widows and orphans of those who will not be here, but who have answered the final roll call on high. May our stay among you be mutually pleasant and profitable, and as we go hence we shall carry with us the memory of your kindness.

At the conclusion of the response of comrade Presson, three cheers were proposed and given with a hearty good-will for the citizens of Canton. After singing "Rally Round the Flag," the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. A. R. Mathes, and the reception exercises were brought to a close.

Immediately after adjournment, a business meeting was held in the Opera House, and on motion the matter of the restoration of Capt. Francis H. Shaw was taken up. Comrade L. B. Crooker then took the floor and read a petition which he had prepared, and which it was proposed to present to Congress, praying for the re-instatement, honorable discharge, and muster out, of Captain Shaw; also a copy of a petition signed by fifty officers, that had been forwarded to President Lincoln, at the time of Capt. Shaw's dismissal in front of Atlanta, about August 11, 1884; also an affidavit recently made by Capt. Shaw, relating the facts as they occurred. The petition is as follows:

To the Honorable Senators and Representatives of the United States:

The subscribers and petitioners respectfully represent that they are survivors of the 55th regiment, Illinois infantry, assembled at the first reunion of that regiment, held at Canton, Illinois, on October 30 and 31, 1884.

That they are past middle life, and almost without exception bear the marks of wounds received in battle, and have tried, with measurable success, to perform the duties of good soldiers and citizens.

That fully believing in and asserting the right of petition, they present the following, and confidently ask for relief as hereinafter explained; not as a favor, but of right.

What we ask for is that an act of Congress may be passed authorizing the honorable discharge or muster out of Captain FRANCIS H. SHAW, formerly captain of Co. C, of the 55th Illinois infantry, who was, on the 11th day of August, 1864, dismissed from the service for misbehavior before the enemy.

Such dismissal was by a summary order, and without any defense, or opportunity of defence, on the part of Captain SHAW.

It is because we believe and know that such order was unjust, and based upon a misconception of the facts, that we ask at the hands of Congress the relief prayed for.

Captain SHAW was our comrade in arms, and the most knightly among us. He shared with us for three years privations and dangers only known to those who fought in the war of the rebellion, always alike conspicuous for his modesty and bravery.

It is incomprehensible that our comrade should pass through scores of contests, should face the storms of battle until his regiment was reduced to a fragment, and then wilfully misbehave in the presence of the enemy.

The statement of the proposition completely disproves the justice of the punishment.

Now, after the fifth of a century has passed into history, and the smoke of battle cleared away, we simply ask that the stain be removed from the name of Captain SHAW, and the escutcheon of our regiment.

These proceedings are instituted at our own behest, and without the presence or influence of Captain SHAW, who barely consents to our action.

Nothing herein is intended or expected to result in any cost to the government. No pay or emolument is asked for, simply that Captain SHAW be placed right upon the record, and his fame descend to his children unsullied.

For the purpose of establishing the justice of our petition, and the truth of the facts alleged, we append certain affidavits. Also a copy of a petition filed by fifty officers of the brigade, when the action complained of was pending.

Upon the honor of soldiers and citizens, we append our personal signatures hereto, and respectfully ask that our prayer may be granted.

Comrade Crooker explained, that in order to obtain the relief asked for, printed copies of the petition and accompanying papers should be placed in the hands of the comrades, and that every one should make it his special business, to see or write to the member of Congress of the district in which he resided, urging the righteousness of the petition, and the necessity for prompt action. If a strong and united effort were made, he had no doubt that we would be successful. Remarks were offered by comrades T. Slattery, Augustine, Hartsook, Joslin, Presson, Negley, McAuley, and Fisher, and it was the unanimous sentiment that immediate steps should be taken to right the foul wrong done to this gallant officer, and remove the cruel stigma to which he had patiently and uncomplainingly submitted for 20 years.

On motion, comrades L. B. Crooker and H. H. Joslin were appointed a committee to prepare the printed copies and carry out the wishes of the Association.

On motion, comrade Averill was requested to prepare a suitable

copy of the petition for the signatures of all comrades present at this re-union.

The President notified the Association that comrade N. S. Aagesen was prevented from being present by sickness in his family.

On motion, the Secretary read letters from absent comrades. We regret that want of space forbids their publication in full, but extracts are given from nearly all of them. They are as follows:

COMRADES:

It would give me great satisfaction to join in your Re-union, but the imperative demand of duty forbids the pleasure.

Your assembly calls to mind the years of conflict through which we passed together. The wrongs you patiently endured, your sufferings, and *your heroic deeds, are ever before me.*

Your true record has never been written, nor your relation to the country's deliverance fully known. *Eternal justice will never be satisfied till the true soldier, the noble patriot and the BRAVE CAPTAIN FRANCIS H. SHAW, has been restored to the honors and emoluments so justly his due, and the cloud brought over his fair fame so unjustly, has been lifted by the authority of the Government.* Let this demand be made in the form of *earnest petition*, and put my name on the roll.

I see you as in the days agone, when you were young and strong and beautiful. No silver hairs were then visible, and every eye was full of youthful fire. You stood a thousand strong, full of hope, and strangers to fear. Now, you are a little band, and the strength of youth is yielding to the infirmities of after years.

I saw you standing, when the heroic dead were thickly strewn amid your ranks, and rebel hordes were hurled into oblivion by your arms. Tears come unbidden, as I think of those whose blood enriched rebel soil, and who, to be true to country, so freely gave their lives. The jollity of your re-union will be saddened by the memory of *these absent ones.*

It gives me pleasure to know that I was never untrue to you, in hospital, or camp, or field, or line. The memories of your love to me personally, will not die, and I have ever felt that you appreciated my services beyond their value. My heart was with you then, and is with you now. For your highest happiness, in time and eternity, I was deeply interested during the years of war, and that interest is yet unabated. I am trusting that your present assembly will be a joyful one,—of real benefit to all, and injury to *none*. Also, that subsequent re-unions will be provided for, with which I may have the pleasure to be indentified.

May not your old Chaplain entertain the hope, that *each remaining soldier of the "fifty-fifth," will be a soldier of the Cross, and that those who were so loyal to the flag in the years of its peril, will be loyal to God and meet him in Heaven?*

Yours affectionately,

M. L. HANEY.

Holton, Kansas, Oct, 28th, 1884.

Comrade W. H. LIVERMORE writes from Washington, D. C., as follows: "The vicissitudes of life have necessarily scattered the remnants of our noble regiment through many of the States, but when next the command to "fall in." is given, it will be my earnest endeavor to answer roll-call. I trust you will remember me kindly to all the boys, and midst the hand-shaking and consequent rejoicing at meeting each other once again, we should not be unmindful of our brave com-

rades, whose bones we left bleaching on the hillsides and in the valleys, under the solemn pines and beneath the creeping vines."

Comrade JAMES W. GAY writes from Delta, Iowa, that he is still suffering from rheumatism contracted while a prisoner at Andersonville, Ga., and says that "nothing on earth would give him more pleasure than to enjoy a good hand-shake with those who have proven themselves *heroes* in thirty-one hard contested conflicts; men who faced death without flinching; men who were ever ready to guard the ensign of America's independence—her pride and her glory—the dear old flag. Boys, be proud of the regiment you belong to, as I am proud of the honor of carrying the colors of the 55th Illinois Regiment."

Comrade C. M. BROWNE writes from Girard, Kansas: "I should have been so gratified, could I have had the pleasure of meeting with the members of the 55th once again in this life, but fate directs otherwise. Please say to enquiring comrades I send them my best regards. There are not many weeks in the year that pass but I think of them and the trials and hardships we all endured. Our sufferings and trials have cemented a brotherly feeling which excels, in many instances, blood connection. Should an effort be made at the re-union to restore Capt. Shaw to his proper place, you can sign my name 'yes,' and half a dozen times."

Comrade EARL P. GOODWIN writes from Spring Valley, Minn.: "God bless you and give you a good time."

Comrade JOE HEBB, from Howard, Elk county, Kansas, says: "My thoughts will be with you. Remember me to all. I think any man who holds an honorable discharge from the 55th is almost entitled to a pass into the kingdom of heaven."

Comrade HORACE T. HEALEY, from Sterling, Ill., says: "Owing to sickness in my family, it will be impossible for me to meet you on the 30th and 31st October. I sincerely hope you will have a good time. Regards to the old Vets."

Comrade R. L. CLEVELAND, from Devil's Lake City, D. T., writes: "I shall think of you when you meet to celebrate the 23d anniversary of our muster in. I am proud of the fact that I was a member (using the words of our late Col. Malmborg) 'of my old 55th.' I wish each and every one of you a pleasant time and a long and happy life."

Comrade J. H. NIES writes from Oregon, Mo.: "This is my busiest time of the year, and I cannot get a suitable person to take my place in the store. Give my kind regards to all the boys, and let us hope to meet some time in the near future."

Comrade SAMUEL NASH says: "Whatever you may do, count me in. Give my best wishes to all the comrades, and should any of you come this far West, my address is 408 Rose street, Georgetown, Col., and the latch string is always out."

Comrade HENRY S. NOURSE, of South Lancaster, Mass., having been nominated as State Senator for his district, writes that the duties of the canvass will deprive him of the pleasure of attending the re-union, and adds: "From your late experience of my heartfelt interest in all that concerns the brave old regiment, you will be able fitly to explain to our fellow veterans present at roll call on the 30th and 31st inst., that I am absent only because ordered to do a Republican soldier's duty elsewhere. May your meeting at Canton be a joyous one in spite of the many sad memories that will obtrude themselves, and may Providence grant it every grace that can add to its success."

Comrade A. J. BROCK writes from St. Louis, Mo.: "I am now living just ten blocks from the Fair Grounds, where we first learned to 'fix Pe-nutes,' and beat the old pie woman out of her buckskin pies. I see Gen. Sherman nearly every day, but have not spoken to him since he arrested me at Chewalla, Tenn., for shooting a pig. For further particulars, ask J. August Smith, our late Adjutant. I will be on hand at the next re-union, or *bust* something wide open, whether my boots are blacked or not. I know you will have a good time, for the 55th never did anything by halves, especially when short of rations. With this I will close, hoping that when the final reveille is sounded, we may all meet at the Grand Re-union beyond the river."

Comrade DAVID McKEIGHAN writes from Cleveland, Ohio, that he will be on hand at the re-union *next* year, if he has to burst a suspender. He adds: "I have seen none of the boys, except John Schenneman, since we parted in Chicago in 1865, and there have been a great many changes since then. I would like to see all the boys in line, and Col. Malmborg on that charger, when he used to put us through the manly art of paralyzing the enemy with the 'peyonet.' Please furnish me the address of the boys of Company D."

Comrade D. F. FRYER writes a very cordial letter from Oroville, Butte county, Cal., and regrets that he cannot be at the re-union. He expresses a warm interest in all that concerns the 55th, and wants a copy of the proceedings of the re-union and of the history of the regiment, when published.

Comrade JACK HEFFERMAN writes from Durango, La Plata county, Col., that he is engaged in his profession of mining engineer, and that his heart will always be with his old, dear brave comrades of what Gen. Sherman once said was the best regiment in the army, either regular or volunteer, the magnificent 55th. "The dearest memories of my life are the old recollections of camps, skirmishes, fights, battles, marches, and comrades made glorious when going down into the valley of the shadow of death to pluck the golden apple of Union from the clutches of Southern traitors. Please enroll my sons' names on your list of sons of veterans of the 55th, if you have such an organization, and if you have not, organize one at the re-union, so as to keep the boys in the principles of Faith, Charity and Loyalty. God bless you all."

Comrade J. H. MILLS, from Blue Mound, Linn county, Kansas, writes: "I cannot think of anything that would give me so much pleasure, as to meet you all in Canton, but it is impossible for me to be there."

Comrade CHARLES VAN BUSKIRK, from La Salle, Ill., regrets that he cannot attend, and says: "My good wishes are with you all."

Comrade J. W. KEFFER, of Yallaha, Sumpter county, Florida, writes as follows: "This is the first I have heard of the psalm-singing 55th, as Morgan L. Smith used to call us, since the close of the war. I should be glad to attend the re-union, but I am afraid it will be out of my power to do so, unless I should visit my old home about that time, which I have been promising to do for the last 15 years. We have old soldiers here from nearly every state in the glorious old Union, and many are the arguments we have had with the Boys of the Gray, but all in good part."

Gen. John A. Logan, in reply to a letter of invitation from the Secretary, sends the following response:

U. S. Senate, Washington, D. C., June 12, 1884.

H. H. JOSLIN, Sec'y,

My Dear Sir:—Your kind letter, extending to me an invitation to be present on the occasion of your re-union on the 30th and 31st of October, is received. At present it is impossible to say where I shall be at that time, and I regret that I am therefore unable to accept your invitation. Hoping that you may have an enjoyable occasion, I remain,

Very truly yours,

JOHN A. LOGAN.

The Secretary was, on motion, instructed to file all letters received for future reference.

Comrades Joseph Hartsook, John G. Brown, Francis P. Fisher and H. H. Joslin were, on motion, designated by the Chair as a committee on printing, and it was ordered that the proceedings of the re-union be printed in pamphlet form, and a copy sent to the address of each member of the association.

On motion, the meeting adjourned to 7:30 o'clock in the evening, and the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. A. R. Mathes.

At 6:30 o'clock a religious meeting, to which all were invited, was held in Grand Army Hall, and conducted by Comrade Joseph H. Presson, and a large number of veterans availed themselves of this opportunity for spiritual communion, enrolling themselves anew under the banner of the cross, with the same devotion and zeal with which they had enlisted against the cohorts of treason in 1861.

EVENING SESSION.

At 7:30 o'clock the meeting was called to order in the Opera House. The hall was filled to overflowing. The exercises were opened by the Glee Club, which sang, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground." The band of the Fourth Regiment then rendered "Recollections of the War" in a style which called forth the enthusiastic plaudits of the audience. When the long roll was introduced, and the firing commenced (the mimic firing was well represented by firecrackers in a barrel), the President grasped the old flag which draped the stage, and waved it over the audience. The effect was electrical, and the vast assemblage rose to their feet, and the cheering continued for several minutes. Short addresses were made by the Rev. A. R. Mathes, Comrade L. B. Crooker, and others, which were listened to with marked attention. Comrade Crooker especially seemed to be fully in his element, and entered into the spirit of the occasion with all the gusto and energy of his nature. He launched out into a glowing eulogy of the gallant old 55th, and paid them such a tribute as, we venture to say, never fell from mortal lips. His eloquent periods and sallies of

wit entranced his listeners and provoked shouts of laughter. He said the boys of the 55th had earned the right to brag, and then and there was the time and place to do it. He did not forget to pay an eloquent tribute to the irrepressible "government mule." Comrade Samuel Hebb related his thrilling and sometimes humorous experiences in the Andersonville prison pen. Comrade Fred Ebersold, when called upon for a speech, sent up his son, who recited in splendid style, "Uncle Reuben's Baptism," winning frequent applause. Comrade C. A. Songster related an exciting incident of his army life near Black River, Miss., showing how his comrade Green died at the hands of a Confederate soldier, and thereby saved his (Songster's) life. Comrade Witter spoke in eulogistic terms of Mrs. Bickerdite and her grand record as a nurse in the hospital, caring for the wounded and dying soldiers. Comrade Andress, by request, favored the audience with two verses of that favorite poem of Co. I, "Tobias and Tobunkus," which was received with uproarious applause. Comrade John G. Brown read a number of old army orders of 1861-65. After music by the Band, the Benediction was pronounced and the meeting adjourned to 9 o'clock the next morning.

SECOND DAY—MORNING SESSION.

At 9 o'clock the association was called to order by the President. Prayer was offered by Rev. Mr. Eckley.

The committee on permanent organization recommended that the temporary organization be made the permanent organization, which recommendation was concurred in. Upon taking the chair, President Andress thanked his comrades heartily for the compliment and honor bestowed upon him.

The Committee on constitution and By-Laws reported as follows:

1. That the name of this organization shall be "The Society of the Surviving Members of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois Veteran Volunteer Infantry."
2. Its officers shall consist of a President, ten Vice-Presidents, a Secretary and Assistant Secretary, Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer, who shall hold their office until their successors are elected at each succeeding reunion of the association.
3. Meetings shall be held at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the association at the reunions.
4. Survivors of the Fifty-Fifth may become members of the association by paying one dollar and signing the constitution; and a fee of one dollar at each succeeding meeting of the association, annually.
5. The oldest son of each member of the Fifty-Fifth shall be eligible to membership in the association, whether said member of the Fifty-Fifth is now living or deceased.
6. The President, Secretary and Treasurer shall make reports in writing at each reunion of the society.

The report of the committee was adopted.

The President, upon motion, appointed P. Roberts, J. A. Smith and Giles F. Hand a committee on resolutions.

The Rev. G. J. Luckey was invited by the President to the platform and made a few remarks, which were warmly received by his former comrades. Comrade L. B. Crooker called up the matter of Captain Shaw's reinstatement, and read the copy of petition, prepared by Comrade Averill, for the signatures of those present. The following resolutions were then read and unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The reunion of the 55th Illinois infantry is now in session for the first time since the close of the war, about one hundred survivors of said regiment taking part therein. And,

WHEREAS, It is the opinion of all present that injustice was done to FRANCIS H. SHAW, captain of Co. C, of said regiment, by his dismissal therefrom. And,

WHEREAS, We are anxious to obtain relief at the hands of Congress, and have petitioned therefor. And,

WHEREAS, We represent many districts from various states. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the papers in the case, together with the petition therein, be placed in the hands of the Hon. R. R. HITT, M. C. from Ogle county, Illinois, who has kindly consented to attend to the same, for the purpose of presentation to Congress.

Resolved, That we respectfully request the consideration and assistance of all members of Congress; especially those who represent us, in the direction indicated by said petition.

Resolved, That in United States Senator JOHN A. LOGAN we recognize the special champion and friend of the soldier, and call his attention to this matter, expecting him to act with his proverbial zeal.

Resolved, That we hereby instruct and urge all surviving members of our regiment to appeal to their respective members of Congress, at or before the next session, to support and forward our action by all honorable means.

Three rousing cheers were then given for Captain Shaw.

At the request of the President, the roll of all the comrades present was then called by companies, the object being to make the register as complete and accurate as possible. The register showed 110 survivors of the regiment present, as follows:

LIST OF SURVIVORS PRESENT AT THE RE-UNION.

Co. A.

Augustine, Henry.
Brown, John G.
Burnside, G. M.
Barrett, James.
Coykendall, M. J.
Cadwallader, John W.
Fingle, C. P.
Gay, Joshua H.
Hayden, Alfred R.

Lowe, William H.
Lingkenfelter, Aaron.
Luckey, George J.
Mills, Joseph.
Maxwell, A. B.
McCumber, Orville.
Mitchell, Matthew.
Negley, Daniel O.
Pritchard, Bery.
Presson, J. H.

Proceedings of the Association

Ridenour, J. B.
 Robbins, James F.
 Schleisch, Peter.
 Vaughn, James.
 White, James M.
 Wellington, Horatio.
 Wheeler, J. P.

Co. B.

Barrows, George W.
 McAuley, John T.
 Fisher, J. H.

Co. C.

Austin, Joseph.
 Fisher, Francis P.
 Garner, James C.
 Helgeson, Nels.
 Joslin, Henry H.
 Oliver, Robert.
 Reigger, Henry.
 Schultz, Theodore.
 Turney, Charles G.
 Woodring, Henry.

Co. D.

Abbott, Joseph.
 Bonney, Samuel P.
 Cameron, James A.
 Curfman, George W.
 Fink, Jacob.
 Goodell, Levi.
 Hufferd, James.
 Harell, J. Wm.
 Knott, Joseph A.
 Kent, Henry.
 Knapp, James.
 Morris, Asa.
 Paden, Albert F.
 Parker, George.
 Pollett, George.
 Saville, Edward.
 Smith, Harrison.
 Wilhelm, Theodore.

Co. E.

Kaisser, Henry.
 Rhodemeyer, Henry.

Co. F.

Booth, William.
 Crooker, L. B.

Carrier, John S.
 Dewey, Edwin A.
 Fluke, C. R.
 Hartsook, Joseph.
 Holmes, D. N.
 Hand, Giles F.
 Johnson, Gus A.
 Long, Samuel.
 Matheny, David J.
 Parks, Joseph W.
 Reed, Amenzo.
 Sanford, Jacob.
 Sterling, L. W.
 Wetzel, A. B.
 Wetzel, D. W.

Co. G.

Burnside, I. L.
 Bell, S. R.
 Hiner, J. C.
 Henderson, John K.
 Morey, Horace E.
 Peterson, M. C.
 Roberts, Peter.
 Songster, C. A.
 Smith, Fred W.
 West, Charles L.
 Williams, A. A.
 Witter, George E.

Co. H.

Bigbee, C. C.
 Merrick, John D.
 Smith, J. August.

Co. I.

Andress, D. C.
 Ebersold, Fred.
 Ebersold, Peter.
 Larabee, J. W.
 Slattery, Timothy.
 Slattery, Patrick.
 Weldon, John.

Co. K.

Averill, John.
 Cox, R. M.
 Coy, G. C.
 Grounds, William.
 Kayes, James W.

Lomax, W. D.
Latimer, Thomas P.
Murray, S. S.
Waddell, William.

Regimental Staff.
Tompkins, C. B.
Tompkins, J. B.
Original Regimental Band.
Small, A. F.

Comrade John G. Brown, who had been requested to prepare a historical sketch of the regiment for this reunion, then read the following interesting and able paper, which was listened to with the closest attention, and called forth frequent applause.

HISTORICAL SKETCH OF THE 55TH REG. ILL. VOL.

BY JOHN G. BROWN.

In attempting to give a sketch of the service rendered its country by the Fifty-Fifth twenty years ago, the writer is confronted by a memory somewhat clouded by the misty veil of time, but by the aid of diaries and official documents in my possession I present a brief history of one of the many regiments that went from this state to do battle for our country when it was assailed by traitors; a regiment that had no paid correspondent to herald to the world great or imaginary achievements, but one that was always in the front line, doing its whole duty and trusting to authentic history and a people grateful for a country saved, for its reward.

The subject of this paper was organized at Camp Douglas, in the fall of 1861, under the name of the Second Regiment of the Douglas brigade, in honor of that noble patriot, Stephen A. Douglas. The regiment was mustered in October 31, 1861, with a full quota of men, Colonel David Stuart commanding, and was assigned the number Fifty-Fifth. In December following the regiment was transferred to Benton Barracks, St. Louis, Missouri, where the routine of camp life was resumed. The Fifty-Fifth, under command of Lieutenant-Colonel O. Malmberg as drill officer, attained a proficiency in battalion drill second to none in the Western army. In January the regiment was ordered to join Grant's army at the front, and was taken by boat—the D. A. January—to Paducah, Kentucky. This boat, by its numerous halts on the sand bars of the Mississippi river, justly earned the name of "Whoa, January."

The regiment being armed with almost worthless guns, it was left to guard Paducah after the army moved on forts Henry and Donelson. After the capture of these strongholds, and the regiment being efficiently armed, it moved by boat and captured Columbus, Kentucky, the enemy evacuating upon its approach. On the movement of the army up the Tennessee river the Fifty-Fifth was assigned to the Second brigade of Sherman's division and took the advance, disembarking twenty miles above Pittsburg Landing, forming part of an expedition that was sent out to destroy the Memphis and Charleston railroad between Iuka and Burnsville. Foiled by swollen streams, the expedition was abandoned and the troops proceeded down the river to Pittsburg Landing, where the Second brigade, composed of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois, Fifty-Fourth

and Seventy-First Ohio, under command of Colonel David Stuart, took position on the extreme left of the Federal lines, three miles from the landing and on the Hamburg, near the junction of the Purdy road, which crosses the Corinth road nearly two miles west, in the vicinity of Shiloh Church, where General Sherman went into camp with the other brigades of his division. Hurlbut's division took position on the right and rear of Stuart. Later, General Prentiss, with two brigades, occupied a position in the front and a little to the right of Hurlbut. McClerland was in the rear of Sherman and W. H. L. Wallace near the landing.

As the battle of Shiloh was fifth in magnitude of the great battles of the war, and the loss greater to the number engaged than any other battle, and in consideration of the mysteries that still linger around that enigmatical engagement owing to the deception of some of the generals in withholding or misrepresenting the true facts in order to screen themselves from flagrant negligence; and in view of the prominent part the Fifty-Fifth took in that desperate struggle, covering itself all over with glory, and after a careful examination of the field recently by the writer, gleaning such facts from observation and consultations with scores of comrades searching for truths in like manner, and from such documental facts as we have in our possession, we propose to give, as we understand it, a synopsis of that engagement on the left portion of the line.

Owing to the many blunders for lack of generalship, and the disastrous results therefrom, chief of which was the loss of several thousand prisoners, all manner of accusations have been made by troops on one part of the line against those of another part, most of which are unjust; but the twenty-second anniversary of the battle participated in by representatives of nearly every regiment and battery, has taught valuable lessons which will tend to dispel former feelings of disparagement. In speaking of generalship, we call attention to the remarks of a Union and Rebel soldier after the battle, which illustrates it forcibly. The Rebel said: "You must admit that our side was the best generalized." The Unionist replied: "Yes, but we were the best colonized."

As shown before, Stuart's Brigade was on the extreme left, Prentiss' two brigades on the right, with a gap of a half mile between him and Stuart; General Sherman, with three brigades on Prentiss' right, with a gap intervening, the whole force, consisting of about 10,000 men, and covering a line of over two miles. Prentiss sent forward early in the morning a detachment which engaged the enemy in a manner manifested by the firing that a general engagement was almost certain to follow. He harrassed the rebel advance for two hours, falling back gradually. Notwithstanding this unmistakable signal of danger, two hours before the main line was struck, this imperfect front line received the shock of battle from Johnson's whole army without any support, when there were 20,000 troops camped within two miles. The result was, that after a half hour's desperate resistance Sherman's left flank and both of Prentiss' were turned and their commands driven back in disorder. The men fought bravely, but it was beyond human endurance to stay the enemy's onslaught. Sherman's and Prentiss' brave defence made the enemy more cautious with his right wing, and his

extreme right, a brigade of six regiments of Tennessee and Mississippi troops, commanded by the notorious General Chalmers, did not strike Stuart until about 10:30 o'clock, when the latter opened such a destructive fire that the enemy was badly broken up. General Chalmers, in his official report says: "The enemy, under the cover of some woods, poured a terrific fire upon my brigade, killing many officers and men, and completely demoralizing one regiment so it was of no service the rest of the day." This loss to the enemy partially compensated for the skedaddle of the Seventy-First Ohio on our right. This position, comrades, was the one in the woods east of the narrow field commencing a short distance from the left of our camp and ending near Lick Creek, below. Colonel Stuart, in his official report, says: "I dispatched my Adjutant to General Hurlburt to inform him that General Prentiss' left was turned, and to ask him to advance his force. His reply was, that he would advance immediately. Within fifteen minutes General Hurlburt sent forward a battery, which took position in the road immediately by Colonel Mason's Seventy-First Ohio headquarters. A regiment (the Forty-First Illinois, as I remember), formed in line on the right of this battery. Observing these dispositions, and expecting that the remainder of Hurlburt's division would be up quickly, I established my line of battle accordingly, with the right of the Seventy-First Ohio resting opposite the eastern extremity of the camp of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois, the Fifty-Fifth next on the left, and the Fifty-Fourth Ohio beyond, facing the south. (This is the position referred to above). I had two companies of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois and two companies of the Fifty-Fourth Ohio detached as skirmishers in the hills opposite, and across the creek or ravine. From a convenient position on the brow of the hill north of the creek, with my glass I could observe all the enemy's movements. Having succeeded in planting their battery in a commanding position, they opened a fire of shell upon us, under cover of which the infantry advanced upon us diagonally from the left of Prentiss' division, and also from the right of the battery. I hastened in person to the battery I had left an hour before in front of Colonel Mason's tent, to order them farther to the east, in front of my headquarters, where they would have a splendid fire upon the enemy's battery as well as upon the advancing infantry. The battery had left without firing a gun, and the battalion on its right had disappeared. For above a quarter of a mile to my right no soldier could be seen unless fugitives making their way to the rear. A large body of the enemy's troops were advancing due north, towards Mason's camp, and I saw that the position of my brigade was inevitably flanked by an overwhelming and unopposed force. Hastening back to my brigade, I found the enemy advancing rapidly in its front. The Seventy-First Ohio had fallen back under the shelling of the enemy's guns to a position (as I was informed by Colonel Mason) about one hundred and fifty yards in the rear, and re-formed on a ridge of ground very defensible for infantry, but I could not find them, and had no intimation as to where they had gone. Before I could change position, the Fifty-Fifth Illinois and Fifty-Fourth Ohio were engaged (the fight across the narrow field referred to above by the writer), but as soon as possible I withdrew them to a position on the brow of a hill, and

formed a line, which if extended, would intersect my first line diagonally from northwest to southeast. I had not to exceed eight hundred men of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois and Fifty-Fourth Ohio. I saw no more of the Seventy-First Ohio through the fight."

The writer must correct Colonel Stuart's description of the second position. It was more nearly parallel to the first line. After we fell back General Chalmers reports that he waited for ammunition and extended his line on the right fearing he might be flanked. If he had known that there were only two small regiments opposing his fire his fears would have been dispelled. The fact of the matter is, that we, before and after this, poured such a heavy, well-directed fire upon him that he believed that he was fighting a whole division. During Chalmers' manoeuvring, before the second attack, we executed some peculiar movements among which was the memorable square which will always bring a smile to the face of a Fifty-Fifth boy. It is argued by many that this square nonplussed the enemy and resulted greatly to our advantage. This second position, where we held the enemy numbering three to our one, for over two hours, was a very strong one, and it is a mystery that the enemy persisted so long in a direct attack when our right flank was exposed for a quarter of a mile or more. The Twelfth and Ninth Illinois of McArthur's Brigade were ordered to Stuart's support, but they were met by a heavy force of the enemy and hotly engaged before they got in sight or within communicating distance, leaving us in an isolated position on their left and a considerable distance in front. Comrades, we can always congratulate ourselves when we think of our narrow escape that day from the terrors of rebel prison pens. After McArthur's troops had fallen back, the enemy appearing on both our flanks, and our ammunition being exhausted, we were forced to retreat at about 3 o'clock with a loss of over two hundred men of our regiment killed and wounded. It was a sad experience to the writer when we traced that line of battle on the 6th day of last April and looked into the many open pits from which our slain comrades had been removed to the cemetery at the Landing. There were many things visible that brought vividly to mind the horrible scenes of that memorable day.

As remarked before there has been too much of a disposition on one part of the line to lay the blame for the disaster of Sunday on some other part of the field, and a full share of censure has been laid upon Stuart's Brigade; but when the facts are known we will be justly credited with doing our whole duty; all that was possible for valor to accomplish. The official records prove beyond a doubt that the Fifty-Fifth fought a good fight; its loss being 46 killed, 201 wounded and 26 prisoners, from a little over 500 men actually engaged. Thirty-five of the wounded died during the year. Only one other regiment, the Ninth Illinois, which was nearest on our right, lost more men in killed and wounded than the Fifty-Fifth in the battle of Shiloh. This record should refute any and every accusation against Stuart's Brigade. We make this assertion, and boldly defy contradiction. The Fifty-Fifth held its position nearer the first line of the morning and farther from the landing later in the day than any other troops of the whole army. All honor to the brave Fifty-Fourth Ohio, and the Spartan

band of seventeen of the Seventy-First Ohio, commanded by its Adjutant, that so nobly stood by us in that deadly conflict. When Sherman and Prentiss fell back, followed closely by the victorious enemy, they met the reserves coming up in disjointed commands generally, and before a complete line could be formed some part would be broken by an onslaught of the advancing foe. These ungeneraled (this word is the writer's), defenses were made repeatedly all day along the whole line, resulting in disaster, but frequently giving the enemy a severe punishing. In some instances some generalship entered into the contest, notably where General Tuttle's Brigade of W. H. L. Wallace's Division, with some other troops, formed a line with Prentiss' retreating forces in an old road, making a very strong defensible position. This line repulsed several assaults of the enemy, and remained intact until flanked late in the day, when 3,000 of our men, including General Prentiss, were surrounded and taken prisoners.

Johnston's plan of battle was to strike the left center or flank of our line, and break or turn it and get between the main army and the landing, when our destruction would be easily accomplished, but the stubborn resistance of our left foiled his well laid plans. One word in regard to the disputed surprise at Shiloh and we are done: The rank and file were not surprised, for the front line waited from one to three hours, after heavy skirmishing began, before it was attacked. If the generals were not surprised, as they claim, their directions of the battle, if they gave any, would condemn them as unfit for command; and if they were surprised, they were guilty of flagrant negligence. They can take whichever horn of the dilemma they choose. The fact of it is, Johnston stole a march on them, and put his whole army in their immediate front while they enjoyed a quiet camp, believing he was organizing an army of defence around Corinth. If they had comprehended a dim shadow of the situation and had the troops in rear brought up properly in the morning and filled the gaps in the front line; or better, if this line had been ordered back and a new and shorter one formed, we would have secured an easy victory. An outraged people, in remembrance of the thousands of victims of that terrible slaughter, will ever cry out in righteous indignation against those who are justly responsible.

The Fifty-Fifth on Monday was on the right of Sherman's division and next to General Lew Wallace's division, which was the extreme right of the army. The regiment became engaged near noon and continued in fight until the enemy was driven from the field late in the day. The loss was comparatively light.

A lively skirmish was participated in by the Fifty-Fifth Illinois and Eighth Missouri, on May 17th, at Russel's House, on the march to Corinth. On the evacuation of Corinth the regiment was the first to enter the fortifications.

The summer of 1862 was spent in reconnoisances in Western Tennessee and Southern Mississippi. The Fifty-Fifth captured Holly Springs on the Fourth of July and celebrated the occasion appropriately. Four months camp duty was performed in the late summer and fall at Memphis, Tennessee.

Upon the opening of the campaign against Vicksburg the regiment moved with the army into the interior of Mississippi, but soon returned and joined the expedition under command of General Sherman and proceeded by boat down the river.

At the battle of Chickasaw Bayou, the regiment and the Fifty-Eighth Ohio led the advance on the 28th of December, losing several men. The gallant Captain Schleich was killed in the assault, cheering his men on to battle.

January 10th, 1863, found the regiment engaged in the battle of Arkansas Post, where the rebel force was captured; after which it went into camp and spade service on the canal at Young's Point, Louisiana.

When Grant's army moved to the rear of Vicksburg, the Fifty-Fifth accompanied the expedition that made a feint on Haines' Bluff above Vicksburg, after which it joined by a forced march the main army at the battle of Champion Hills.

The regiment was hotly engaged in the assaults on the enemy's works around Vicksburg May 19 and 23, and did hard service on the picket line and in the trenches until that stronghold was captured on the Fourth of July, adding greater glory to our National birthday.

After the retaking of Jackson, Mississippi, the regiment went into camp on Black River, where disease was nearly as destructive as campaigning in front of the enemy.

A transfer of a large part of Grant's army to Chattanooga, Tennessee, was the next move, made by boats to Memphis and by rail to Iuka, and the balance by rapid marches. The regiment effected a crossing of the Tennessee river above Chattanooga in pontoon boats in the darkness of the night of November 24, which took the enemy's pickets so by surprise that there was little opposition. This was a desperate and important move, as it opened a direct way to the enemy's right.

At the assault on Mission Ridge, November 25th, the regiment, with its brigade, made a flank movement on the enemy's right and came nearly being decoyed into a trap where a desperate fight or capture would have been the result; but by the exercise of the same tactics that characterized the regiment in many other places, it escaped with little loss.

The regiment participated next in the march to the relief of Knoxville, the seige of which was abandoned by General Longstreet on the approach of our army.

On return, the regiment went into camp December 28, at Bellefonte Station, Alabama, and spent the holidays in a very uncomfortable manner, the weather being cold with the ground covered with snow; and worst of all, rations were short. We copy from our diary of January 1, 1864: "The weather is very cold, it is freezing hard. We are entirely out of rations, and why is it? We are on the railroad where the cars run every few hours, and abundance of rations only twelve miles from here. There is great neglect somewhere. The whole division is nearly starving, and at the same time our officers are calling for veteran volunteers, offering a barrel of whisky to the regiment that furnishes the most veterans. Such an order was promulgated to-day at division headquarters and read to every company."

If they would drink less whisky themselves we would fare much better." I need not say that the Fifty-Fifth did not get that barrel. Camp was soon transferred to Larkinsville, and later part of the regiment went into camp at Larkin's Landing, to guard the pontoon bridge across the Tennessee river. During our stay here a good time was had with the citizens, particularly the female portion with whom the boys frequently enjoyed an evening in the "flat-rock" and other celebrated dances of that section. The comrades will remember the roll-calls that were ordered at 12 o'clock at night; how one would generously answer for his chums who were detained from camp by the irresistible attractions of the Alabama girls.

The regiment re-enlisted and was sworn in April 6, the anniversary of the battle of Shiloh, and was accorded the privilege of electing its field and line officers, an unusual procedure, but these were the conditions of the re-enlistment. On the 18th of April the regiment started on its veteran furlough, and in due time each member joined his friends at home in a reunion long to be remembered.

June 16, 1864, found the Fifty-Fifth again in the front at Big Shanty, Georgia, Captain J. M. Augustine commanding. On June 27th was fought the bloody battle of Kenesaw Mountain in which the regiment played a conspicuous part, being a part of the assaulting column. The enemy's works on the side of the mountain were nearly reached when the brave Captain Augustine fell while cheering on his men, who were soon compelled to fall back under fire from the enemy. In our commander's death the regiment lost one of its bravest and most honored officers; one whose memory will be cherished by every member so long as life shall last. Captain William Potter of Company E, received a mortal wound and died in a few hours. We lost in this engagement 14 killed and 33 wounded, the loss being greater than in any other battle during the war excepting Shiloh. On the morning of July 22, the enemy fell back from his front line of fortifications east of Atlanta, and our forces occupied and remodeled them for defence. The Fifty-Fifth occupied an important position near the main road to Decatur. A heavy force of the enemy under command of General Hood charged upon our whole line in the afternoon, breaking it in several places. Charging and counter charging was the order of battle all the balance of the day until the enemy was driven back with heavy loss to his fortifications. A break was made in the line on the right of the Fifty-Fifth and before it realized the situation a heavy fire was opened on its flank and rear, compelling it to fall back by fighting its way through; but a rally was soon made and our works retaken with a loss to the regiment of 4 killed, 14 wounded and 16 taken prisoners with the colors. This was the first time the regiment fought behind works, and it found the defence easy until the enemy got in the rear when desperate work was before us which was accomplished.

On July 27, the army of the Tennessee swung around to the right of the line, and was again met on the 28th by Hood's forces. The position held by the Fifty-Fifth was repeatedly assaulted and firmly maintained until the enemy was finally repulsed with heavy loss. The regiment lost 4 killed and 12 wounded. The lightness of the casualties

of the Fifty-Fifth in the engagements of the 22d and 28th of July is unprecedented when the desperate fighting is considered.

An advance was ordered August 3 on the rebel picket line, where the Fifty-Fifth succeeded in capturing some posts, and occupying and holding a prominent position. The support on the flanks failing to come up, it was left in a perilous position, but by throwing up some light works it held it without relief or support until late the next day. It was here the gallant Lieutenant Ericson of this place fell fighting for his adopted country. Notwithstanding the regiment in this advance distinguished itself in an eminent manner, an attempt was made by the Division Commander, whose military ability was as light as his name would indicate, to tarnish its good name, or to bring disgrace upon the name of our brave commander, Captain F. H. Shaw. After the regiment had held this exposed position for over twenty-four hours, where sleep was impossible, this General ordered Captain Shaw to advance his men without any support. He righteously replied "that the condition of his men and the situation was such that he could not order them forward, believing that when the facts were reported the order to advance would be countermanded." The General then saw fit to relieve the regiment, and ordered it to the rear in apparent disgrace, and afterward had the brave Captain dismissed from the service. This was an outrage perpetrated upon as brave an officer as ever swung a sword; and our government is unjust in not removing this disability and placing the Captain's name on the records of its noble defenders. We are glad that an effort is being made by the members of the regiment to have this matter righted, and let us persist until justice is done.

On August 30 the regiment led the advance of the infantry in a movement on the railroad at Jonesboro. Early on the morning of the 31st the brigade was ordered to occupy a high point of ground. After a lively skirmish, the position was taken and fortified in anticipation of an attack by the enemy's forces that were arriving on the cars, and massing in plain view in front of us. In the afternoon repeated assaults were made by a heavy force, all of which were executed with a desperation seldom witnessed in warfare. Our position was a very strong one, and being defended by the old First Brigade, it made victory certain. After two hours of one of the most bloody contests of the war, the enemy was repulsed with a loss in front of the Fifty-Fifth greater than was ever before sustained in any engagement. The number of the enemy's dead and wounded left on the field in front of the regiment was equal to its number. Our loss was only two killed and ten wounded.

The battle of September 1, in which we lost two killed and five wounded, closed the fighting around Atlanta, and it was occupied by Sherman.

When General Hood got in our rear and cut the cracker line, the Fifty-Fifth accompanied the expedition in the pursuit, and after a month's chase in Georgia and Alabama, it returned to Atlanta to prepare for the celebrated "March to the Sea," which began November 15th and ended by the capture of Fort McAllister and Savannah, Georgia, December 13th. After a month's rest, the Fifty-Fifth pro-

ceeded with the army by steamer to Beaufort, South Carolina, where preparations were made for a grand picnic march through the Carolinas, which was begun January 30, 1865.

At the crossing of the Edisto River, February 9, the regiment had a lively skirmish with the enemy's rear guard. A detachment commanded by Lieutenant-Colonel Andress effected a crossing and reconnoitered the enemy's position by an all night's march through the swamps.

On February 16 the regiment led the advance on Columbia, South Carolina, and drove the enemy rapidly across the Congaree River, the bridge over which they passed being suddenly fired, preventing the Fifty-Fifth from first occupying the Capital of South Carolina, the hot-bed of secession.

The regiment participated in the battle of Bentonville, March 20 and 21, the last of the war in which Sherman's army was engaged.

The famous march to the sea and through the Carolinas will always be remembered as the most agreeable features of the war; only bad weather occasionally interfering with the comforts of the men. The fighting was mostly confined to light skirmishing, and the foraging was all that could be desired by a hungry soldier. The boys of the Fifty-Fifth will always hold in grateful remembrance the valuable supplying qualifications of Captain "Bob" and his brave band of followers. What they could not find was beyond the reach of human sagacity and mule endurance. At times during the war, when forage was scarce and the regular foraging party failed to supply the needful, Chaplain Haney would be called into requisition as reinforcements, and provisions would come in as if by magic. It was a sorry day for the army when the Fifty-Fifth went hungry. The Fifty-Fifth participated in the grand review in Washington, after which it was taken with Sherman's army to Louisville, Kentucky, where all were discharged and sent home excepting the Second Division, which was ordered to Little Rock, Arkansas, where we remained until August 14, 1865, when the regiment, after four years of arduous service for its country, was mustered out, and the refrain "Home Sweet Home" was taken up.

We cannot, in a short paper, undertake to make proper mention of the efficiency of prominent officers of the regiment; but will be pardoned when we call attention to two officers who, by their incessant watchfulness and laborious efforts contributed so much to the health and general welfare of the regiment. We name Surgeon Roler and Chaplain Haney. We spoke of the latter's foraging propensities. When he could not forage off the enemy, he would raid on friends at home, and all will remember the fine lots of sanitary stores he gathered and brought to us at the front. While he did not forget the spiritual, the physical man was ever under his watchful care. Dr. Roler was truly a family physician of the regiment, always giving it the closest attention, and rendering every service possible for the health and comfort of the men. All will remember how speedily and comfortably our wounded were provided for after a battle; how in a few hours every man was dressed in clean clothing adapted to the comfort of the sick, and watched and treated by the surgeon and chaplain as

only duty and love to man could dictate. The loss by disease in our regiment was less by nearly one-half than most of the regiments in the service, and there were many less who died of wounds than was the usual result. The records show that the Fifty-Fifth lost as many men killed outright in the battle as it did of disease, a rare occurrence in the history of warfare. This condition of things was in a great measure due to the diligence of our Surgeon and Chaplain. The field and line officers of our regiment were brave and dutiful, an honor to the cause of freedom, and beloved by their men who followed them to victory. The valor of the rank and file is evinced by the battle reports.

The following are the casualties of the Fifty-fifth during the war as compiled from official records:

	Killed.			Wounded.			Prisoners.	Grand Total.
	Officers.	Men.	Total.	Officers.	Men.	Total.		
Shiloh, Tenn. April 6 & 7, 1862,	1	45	46	9	192	201	26	273
Russel House. May 17, "	1	1	1	8	8	8		9
Siege of Corinth, Miss. "				2	2	2		2
Shelby Depot. Oct. 23, "				1	1	1		1
Chickasaw Bayou, Miss. . . . Dec. 28, "	1	1	2	1	3	4		6
Arkansas Post, Ark. . . . Jan. 10, 1863,				3	3	3		3
Vicksburg, Miss. . . . May 19, "	1	7	8	2	14	16		24
" " " 22, "	5	5	10	12	13	25		18
" " Siege of "	1	1	1	3	3	3		4
Jackson, Miss., " " "	1	1	1	1	1	2		3
Black River. "	1	1	1					1
Mission Ridge, Tenn. . . . Dec. 25, "				3	3	3		3
Near Kenesaw, Ga. . . . June 23, 1864,	1	1	1	3	3	3		4
Kenesaw Mt., Ga. . . . " 27, "	2	12	14	3	30	33	1	48
Atlanta, Ga. . . . July 22, "	1	3	4	14	14	16		34
" " " 28, "	5	5	10	11	12	23		17
" " Aug. 3, "	1	2	3	3	3	3		6
" " Siege of "	4	4	4	6	6	6		10
Jonesboro, Ga. . . . Aug. 31, "	3	3	3	9	9	9		12
" " Sept. 1, "	2	2	2	5	5	5		7
Bentonville, N. C. . . . March 20, 1865,	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	8
	7	95	102	18	324	342	49	493

When it is remembered that the Fifty-Fifth did not receive fifty recruits during the war, the aggregate loss for the number of men engaged is greater than would appear otherwise. During the Atlanta campaign the regiment lost in killed and wounded 118 men out of a little over 200 actually engaged. Thirty-five of the wounded at Shiloh died within the year. If the same proportion of the other wounded died, the total loss of the Fifty-Fifth from the enemy's bullets would be one hundred and sixty-two. But few regiments in the whole Union army lost more men than the Fifty-Fifth Illinois. Its record will furnish a bright page of history of the noble deeds of our country's defenders. The Fifty-Fifth participated in 31 battles, and was under fire 128 days. It marched 3,240 miles; traveled by railroad 2,875, and

sailed 5,850; total, 11,965 miles. It traversed every Southern State except Delaware, Florida and Texas. There was scarcely a move by the Western army in which the flag of the Fifty-Fifth was not seen, or the music of psalm singing was not heard. The Fifty-Fifth made music on the march and in camp, and fought the battles of its country without flinching. The survivors of the regiment can look back with pride at the noble record they made in defense of the grandest country on the face of the earth, assailed by as despicable an enemy as ever raised rebellious hands, and await their just reward.

On motion, a vote of thanks was tendered to Comrade Brown for his paper, and three cheers were given him with a will.

Notice was given by the President that the public schools would be closed in the afternoon, and the children and teachers dismissed, to give them an opportunity to attend the reunion exercises in the afternoon.

The President proposed three cheers for Canton, and the hospitality and patriotism of her citizens. They were heartily given.

Comrade L. B. Crooker then stated that he had prepared a paper on the battle of Shiloh, and more especially the part taken by the 55th in that battle, and with the consent of the comrades, he would read it. This essay we regard as the most valuable contribution ever made to the literature of this gallant regiment. We say this without disparagement to any other. For it shows a careful study of all sources of information, both Union and Confederate; a keen analysis of the subject, and, above all, successfully demonstrates what was never shown before—that in stubborn resistance to overwhelming numbers, in patient endurance, and in the number of casualties, no other regiment surpassed the 55th on that bloody field. The paper was as follows:

A SECTION OF A BATTLE.

OBSERVATIONS UPON THE CONDUCT OF THE 55TH ILLINOIS INFANTRY IN THE FIRST DAY'S BATTLE OF SHILOH.

A MISSING LINK SUPPLIED.

By LUOLAN B. CROOKER.

It is perfectly well settled how the battle of Shiloh came to be fought. The grand strategy of that campaign is no historical secret.

The maps of the country made it plain that the proper place to attack the rebel line in the west was in the centre, obviously by the navigable channels of the Tennessee and Cumberland rivers. To Gen. Halleck belongs the credit of first grasping this idea—at least, of first announcing it. It is hardly to be imagined that so simple a problem escaped the thoughts of the great embryo captains, Grant and Sherman, of the same department. The first effort in pursuance of this line of attack had been extremely rich in results, embracing the

occupation and capture of Forts Henry, Donaldson, Nashville, Columbus, Bowling Green, with intervening and contiguous territory.

The next step in this sweep of grand strategy culminated in the battle of Shiloh. In the new line assumed, after the fall of Donaldson, Corinth became a point of the first moment. The rebel centre being broken, and its wings without connection, concentration at that point followed. The natural way to reach this was by continuing up the Tennessee river, so that all the advantages of water navigation, safe communication and naval protection could be secured.

Pittsburg Landing was selected, apparently without much consideration, because it was convenient; because the ground was high; and again, because its ridges led into the interior and furnished good camping grounds. Its selection, fortunate or unfortunate, was the act of Gen. C. F. Smith, then in command.

While Gen Grant's army was lying scattered over these ridges, waiting for the arrival of Buel, preparatory to an advance on Corinth, the rebel leaders concluded to attack that portion of the army already at Pittsburg Landing. Thus simple were the steps which led to this great battle.

A word here may not be out of place as to the character of the combat. It was, beyond controversy, among the bloodiest in history. In all the sanguinary battles of our late war, it was for those who staid at the front, one of the most terrific. The Count of Paris in his very able history of the rebellion quotes Gen. Sherman as saying that it was "the most terrible that he had witnessed during his career."

Badeau, in his "Life of Gen. Grant," speaks of certain portions of this battle by referring to them as embracing several hours of as desperate fighting as ever was seen on this continent. He again remarks that "it was the severest fight of the war west of the Alleghanies, and in proportion to the numbers engaged equalled any contest during the rebellion."

He quotes Sherman as saying that he never saw such terrible fighting afterwards, and Grant compared Shiloh only to the "Wilderness." All confederate writers, and there are some able ones, agree in giving to this contest a desperate character seldom equalled. An examination of the losses, and placing them to the proper credit, fully bears out this statement. The weight of authority shows that, exclusive of Lew. Wallace's division, Gen. Grant had at the Landing and upon the field from 32,000 to 33,000 men on the first day. Eliminate over 3,000 cavalry, who lost in killed and wounded, only 24 men, and who for various reasons not discreditable to them were of little if any use; count out also runaway regiments, stragglers, musicians, camp details, camp sick, wagoners, etc., who contributed nothing to the loss of this conflict; and it will be found that not over 24,000 men did the fighting and suffered the loss on the first day. This number lost, in killed and wounded alone, nearly 8,000. Allowing 1,000 for the loss in the second day's fight, it will be found that the killed and wounded in the first day's battle almost doubles the ratio of the "butcher's bill" at Gettysburg. These same men, with little thought that they were making history at such a rate, suffered in one day's battle a per cent. of loss in killed and wounded almost or quite equal to that of our army during the entire Atlanta campaign.

It is not the purpose of this article to give any general history of the battle of Shiloh. That has been a fruitful subject for many able pens. For obvious reasons it has been, and bids fair to be, a theme of acrimonious discussion. Aside from the controversy growing out of the manner of the commencement, the ending, and the results of this battle, it was a series of detached conflicts, many changes and great confusion, all difficult to describe.

It is the distinct purpose of this paper to give an account of the operations of the 55th Illinois infantry, as connected with the first day's contest. I have always felt, in common with my fellow soldiers, that justice has never been done to this regiment for what it did and suffered on that occasion.

No effort will be used to make this a chronicle of personal anecdote or adventure. It might in that case be more graphic, but it would be of less value as history.

There will be no cavil against the statement that the 55th Illinois was one of the best regiments among the many good ones that went from Illinois to participate in our great struggle. It gathered from our farms, shops, offices and school houses as fine fibre of blood, muscle and brain as ever was laid upon the altar of any country. It is also true, beyond controversy, that its career is among the bloodiest. In all that in warlike parlance goes to make "glory," it reaped a rich harvest. Its blood watered the soil of many states. This much is claimed for and will be readily conceded to the 55th Illinois. Yet its literature was all through the war, and is now of the slightest, both in quantity and quality. Its fame was never properly recorded. It had no one to blow its trumpet. Somehow it never got its name inscribed upon monuments. No newspaper correspondent wrote up its events with common justice, let alone the rhetorical exaggerations so often used.

In looking back through the years that have intervened, I can assign some, at least, of the reasons for this great injustice. It was a regiment organized in Chicago from many fragments, from different localities. It did not represent any particular location or nationality. It was not the pride or pet of contiguous territory. Its mourners were not concentrated. It was the silent tear in many hamlets that paid tribute to its dead. Another, and perhaps main reason, was the character of its first field officers. These officers were for many reasons not wise selections; especially so with reference to perpetuating the fame of, and creating a literature for the regiment. Social causes before the war, and personal habits, temper, and temperament during the war, sufficiently account for this to all who are acquainted with the facts. Since the parties referred to are now dead and the fame of the regiment to its survivors is above all things sacred, elaboration of details on this topic is not desirable.

So, from these causes, and others I do not choose to mention, the history of the 55th Illinois remains practically unwritten. Its record is preserved for the most part, if at all, within the now aging memories of its survivors. The highest duty of this and other reunions should be to rescue from oblivion the glorious deeds of this grand old regiment.

I hope I may be able to state and to prove the important part it performed in withstanding the tremendous sweep of the confederate army at Pittsburg Landing. This is especially appropriate since its division commander, General Sherman, first left it off two miles, detached from his division—left it during the battle, without artillery, without his orders, and apparently without a thought, and left it in his report, with a mere allusion never after corrected or elaborated.

To properly characterize the relation of the 55th Illinois to the battle of Shiloh, an allusion to the physical features of the field becomes necessary. It is embraced within the borders of Lick creek on the south, and Snake creek on the north, which enter the Tennessee river on nearly parallel lines about four miles apart, and from the general direction of southwest. Inland or up stream, a short distance from the mouth of Snake creek, enters into it from the side of the battlefield Owl creek, which from that point becomes the limit of the field upon the right flank. The general scope of the battlefield is the high plateau between these creeks. This plateau, or ridge, is cut up by innumerable ravines and small creeks, at times dry, tributary to the larger creeks or the river. Those emptying into Lick creek and the river below the mouth of that creek are terribly deep and rugged, but quickly terminate toward their upper end and blend into the general level of the center of the battlefield.

The general sweep of the rebel line of attack was down this plateau, with a line of battle reaching from Owl creek on their left to Lick creek on their right. The confederate tactics seem to have been to first attack and break the center at and to the left of Shiloh church, then a general left wheel, somewhat *en echelon*, turn the federal left, drive the army away from the river, and capture the Landing and as much of the army as possible. It was in pursuance of this plan, so successfully begun by early breaking through Prentiss and Sherman, and fully set forth in the reports of Chalmers, Jackson and Withers, that the rebel right encountered the stubborn resistance of the 55th Illinois and 54th Ohio.

It may be worth mentioning that the first confederate scheme was to attack and turn the federal left by crossing Lick creek from Hamburg. This plan was abandoned upon General Chalmers report of April 2nd that the crossings of Lick creek were not practicable, except by cavalry. This prevented Stuart's brigade from being the main and first point of attack. What in that case the result would have been belongs to the domain of speculation. Taking into account what the 55th Illinois and 54th Ohio did when attacked, no law of probabilities is violated by stating that they would have done much better work than did Hildebrand's or Buckland's brigades. In the light of experience it is a curious commentary upon the generalship of this battle to state that more than one good road was left without pickets, and unguarded all the way from Corinth to Hamburg.

The rebel formation for attack was in three lines. The front was commanded by General Hardee, the next by General Bragg, and the third by General Polk, with reserves under General Breckinridge. It was generally reported and believed among us after the battle that our brigade was opposed to General Hardee's men. This was not so.

At the time of the rebel advance for attack it was found that Hardee's line was not long enough to fill in the space between Lick and Owl creeks, and as this space began to widen Withers' division of Bragg's corps was used to extend the rebel right, which ultimately came in contact with the federal extreme left.

The 2nd brigade of the 5th (Sherman's) division was composed of the 71st and 54th Ohio and 55th Illinois. It was commanded by Colonel D. Stuart, of the 55th Illinois. It formed the extreme left flank of the federal army, being to the left and somewhat in the rear of General Prentiss' line—especially so with reference to the direction of the attack, which was oblique to the federal line.

The arrangement of the whole federal army has been properly characterized by able writers as "loose." This was particularly true of Stuart's brigade, which was some two miles to the left of the balance of the 5th division and its commander—the 6th, or Prentiss' division, intervening. There was a wide interval between Prentiss and Stuart, and no troops between the latter and the river, somewhat more than half a mile away. As expressed by General Sherman, "It was the extreme left guarding the ford over Lick creek."

It seems to have been so placed before the arrival of other troops, and when General Sherman was covering the whole front. Why, after the arrival of other divisions, they were not extended to cover this point, and Stuart's brigade changed to connect with its division, belongs to the grand aggregation of official stupidity going to make the strategy and tactics of this campaign.

As one writer forcibly expresses it, "this brigade was doubly let alone, both by the commander of the army and its division commander." Referring to the general location of the army, the Count of Paris, after commenting upon the natural strength of the position, says that "the federals had not yet learned to avail themselves of the natural advantages of the position." Also, that they were posted at hazard, and not disposed so as to enable them to support each other, etc. Speaking of Stuart's brigade, he says it was entirely isolated upon the borders of Lick creek.

Notwithstanding General Sherman speaks explicitly of the purpose of Stuart's brigade being so located, it was not in point of fact situated to defend the crossing of Lick creek at all, but was encamped upon a tributary to that stream and more than half a mile away from the crossing. Between lay the highest ridge upon the Shiloh battlefield, with a frowning bluff overlooking Stuart's color line, and rendering all parts of such camp untenable. Then, to defend Lick creek crossing, this brigade must move more than half a mile to the left and front, crossing terrible ridges and ravines, and thereby leave a full mile of space between its right and the left of Prentiss. It is a matter of supererogation to add that no troops at the front had sufficient previous notice to go anywhere in advance, to defend anything. Ordinary human means of knowledge were not used, and inspiration does not appear to have supervened.

To defend the left flank of the army and the ground in its vicinity, it was absolutely necessary to get out from under the great bluffs overlooking its camps, as was done eventually.

The camp of the 55th Illinois was just north of a tributary which enters Lick creek about one-half mile away. It was bordering upon the road running to Hamburg, and about one-fourth of a mile from where such road crosses the small creek referred to. These facts have been verified by a recent personal examination of the ground.

Here, if at all, would be the proper place to discuss whether the federal army was surprised at Shiloh. I do not purpose to add greatly to the voluminous literature on that topic. I have, however, a decided opinion. In this opinion I am sustained by an overwhelming weight of authority. I am sustained by the definite conclusion and capable thought of thousands who were present and now survive. In recently visiting the field, with near two hundred of those survivors, I did not hear one dissenting voice. That opinion, briefly stated, is that all preliminaries necessary to prepare a great army to repel the attack of another were wanting; that there was an entire lack of preparation, of concerted and necessary action, which betokened absolute ignorance of the presence of a hostile army; that the commanding officers are entitled to no credit beyond good conduct on the field after the battle commenced; that in all the essentials of a surprise it was a success for the confederates. I deliberately state, that since war became a science, one great army never approached another with its presence so entirely unknown.

It was emphatically a soldiers' fight, well put in the expression that the rebels out-generalized us, but that we out-colonized them. On these points the authorities are too numerous to quote, and a general reference is made to the reports and histories covering that period.

Nothing herein is intended to detract from the great fame of Generals Grant and Sherman, who did enough afterward to merit the gratitude of humanity. Their reputation is too well established to need any fantastic distortion of facts about this battle.

The latter calls it a necessary test of manhood. Granted, but yet it is a great pity that the northern troops did not enter upon this "test of manhood" with sufficient preparation to destroy the rebel army and gain an overwhelming victory. It is a pity that, as this great historical page was unfolding, the first glimmer of its bloody import should thrust itself upon General Sherman only at 8 o'clock on the morning of the battle. Then, as he says in his report, he became convinced for the *first time* that the enemy designed a determined attack. If not admitted to be true, it would seem like a romance when we state that fully 20,000 confederates rested for thirty-six hours within less than four miles of General Sherman's headquarters. The simple truth is, that at this stage of the war generals were in process of education as well as privates.

Gladden's brigade of Withers' division had first been taken from Bragg's line and used to extend Hardee's right, as the widening space toward Lick creek made it necessary. Jackson's and Chalmers' brigades, of the same division, had been placed *en echelon* to the right and rear of Gladden. In this formation, the attack was pushed upon Prentiss, and finally both Chalmers and Jackson participated, though not seriously, in the breaking of that general's line.

Meanwhile, the regiments of Stuart's brigade had at the first alarm

formed upon their respective color lines. Cononel Stuart states, in his report, that at 7:30 a. m. he received word from General Prentiss that the enemy were in his front in force, and that in a short time he discovered the Pelican flag advancing in rear of Prentiss' headquarters. Then he despatched his adjutant to inform General Hurlburt that Prentiss' left was turned. Stuart also states that, within 15 minutes, Hurlburt sent one regiment (the 41st Illinois, as he remembers) and a battery, which took position immediately by the 71st Ohio headquarters. He expected Hurlburt's division would be up quickly. He further states that subsequently, and before any attack was made upon his brigade, such regiment and battery had departed without firing a gun. I do not find in the report of General Hurlburt, or that of any of his subordinates, or of the 41st Illinois, anything confirming this.

It is true that General Hurlburt at once promptly advanced his whole division, until met by the fugitives of Prentiss' division. He was at least three-quarters of a mile to the right and rear of the 55th Illinois. While his division was well fought and handled, as the very able report of its commander shows, it in no sense supported Stuart's brigade, or protected its flank from any direct attack. It appears also that the 9th and 12th Illinois, of Wallace's division, were sent to the left and front, with a view to supporting Stuart. Before reaching any such position, they were met by the debris of Prentiss' broken line, and the confederates following them, and were involved in a bloody conflict, in which they did their whole duty. While it is not clear just where they fought, it is certain they never got within half a mile of Stuart.

The first line of battle formed by this brigade was with its right resting opposite the left of the camp of the 55th Illinois. The 71st Ohio was upon the right, with the 55th Ill. the center and the 54th Ohio upon the left. From this point two companies each of the 55th and 54th were sent as skirmishers across the creek in their front.

Several changes in position occurred, not all of which are remembered, and which had no significance. Great uncertainty prevailed as to the precise direction the attack would come from, and these changes of position were doubtless intended to establish a line parallel to that of the expected attack, or with a view to defensibility. As an incident of this portion of the battle, it may be mentioned that the skirmishers of the 55th Illinois fired into one of Chalmers' regiments as it was forming. It was the 52nd Tennessee, and was so stampeded that, with the exception of two companies, it took no further part in the battle. It is a strange coincidence that the 71st Ohio, commanded by that globule of adipose pomposity, Col. Rodney Mason, was upon the same portion of the field stampeded in the same way, not even one company remaining to participate further in the battle.

The skirmishers were unable to prevent the planting of a hostile battery upon the high bluff across the small creek. This was Gage's battery, highly complimented by its brigade commander. At this time the position of the 55th Illinois, with the 54th Ohio upon its left, was from 80 to 160 rods to the left, and slightly to the rear of the camp of the 55th Illinois. The regiment had not as yet been engaged seriously. The fire it was subjected to came from the battery before

mentioned. It would seem that Colonel Stuart, for some reason, here expected the attack to come from the south-east, or up the road from the crossing of the creek. A change of front thereupon was attempted, during which the 55th Illinois broke and ran in the most inextricable confusion.

In looking over the ground since, I am astonished at the direction this skedaddle took. It was nearly to the right, and comparatively little toward the rear. Its course crossed a considerable ravine, and passed over about 100 rods of ground, when the regiment halted, as if by impulse, a promiscuous, disorganized mass of men. It was then deliberately formed into line by its officers. From that day till "Jonnie came marching home," anything like a panic never affected this regiment, and in no sense impaired its efficiency in the conflict which followed.

According to my recollection, it was about this time the 71st Ohio broke for the rear and disappeared, as an organization, from the battle. Strange to say, a recent denial of this appears in print. I propose to state the simple fact, known to every survivor of the 55th Illinois, that that regiment disgracefully ran away, led by many of its officers. Although this is tenderly glossed over by General Sherman, and excuse attempted by its colonel, time has not dimmed my recollection as to it. I do not propose that the laurels shall be taken from the graves of our comrades and placed at the feet of a regiment that run away and left them to their fate. It will be hard to convince the survivors of the glorious old 55th, who felt and heard the whistle of innumerable rebel bullets down the ravine from the right, where the 71st ought to have been, that that regiment was doing its duty. Months after, six companies of the same regiment were disgracefully surrendered by the same colonel, at Clarksville, Tennessee, for which he and eleven or twelve line officers were dismissed, with proper contumely. It is needless to add that these remarks do not apply to the brave Lt. Colonel Kyle, who lost his life in trying to rally his regiment, nor to its adjutant and the seventeen men who staid and fought with the 55th. A word of praise may be also well bestowed upon a beardless, rosy-cheeked boy, named B. F. Innyartt, who fought in the ranks of Company I after his regiment had fled to the landing.

It was at this point that word was sent in by the skirmishers that cavalry were approaching from the direction of the creek crossing. Here for probably the first as well as the last time during the rebellion, a hollow square was formed in actual battle. It was shortly reduced, and line of battle deliberately formed. An examination of the reports, recently made accessible through the publications of congress, shows this to have been caused by a detachment of cavalry commanded by Captain Clanton, and sent in that direction to discover the extent of the Union line on that flank. During the contest which followed, they went far to our left and rear, but took no great part in the combat, though they watered their horses in the Tennessee river.

As the regiment was formed in line of battle, after reducing the square, just to its rear was a deep, rugged ravine—not less than 50 feet deep—the southern edge of which became the line of battle dur-

ing the terrible conflict which followed, and to reach which only a few steps were necessary. Referring again to a recent visit, I find this position to be from 50 or 60 rods to the rear, and a little east of north from the camping ground of our regiment. It was here that the 55th Illinois and 54 Ohio made such a glorious stand. It was here that the two regiments fought and struggled with a tenacity never excelled on that battlefield. It was here that for more than two hours the rebel right was held in bloody conflict, and the whole Union left flank protected.

I assert positively that not a foot of ground was yielded from the south edge of this ravine until after 2 o'clock on Sunday. All movements of our brigade, up to this point, had been tactical, either in anticipation of an attack from an uncertain direction, or in search of a proper position. All other stands or conflicts, sometimes spoken of, were of little consequence. At this time the regiment, outside of its skirmishers, had not lost ten men. Nothing but its camps were yielded, and that was necessary, from the nature of the ground. No defensible position farther to the front existed then or now. The bluffs upon the opposite side of the creek made all parts of our camp, or any extension of that line, absolutely indefensible. By accident or design, the position we assumed was emphatically the best at hand, and had our flanks been protected, we could have held it for two whole days.

It now becomes important to inquire how many men the regiment had in line at this, the supreme moment of its existence. Wm. Preston Johnston, in his able work, showing far more research upon this topic than any northern one, gives to the 55th Illinois 657 men for duty. Adjutant Nourse says 650. Both are substantially correct, according to the rolls of the regiment. This, however, is not the correct number of fighting men gathered upon the edge of this rugged ravine: From this must be eliminated all stragglers and runaways—unfortunately quite numerous; all musicians; all heretofore killed or wounded; camp details; wagoners, etc. Capt. J. T. McAuley, then Sergt. Major, and who made a moning report that day, says, the regiment had in line just 512 men. That number was at the time somehow impressed upon my mind, and has not been effaced by the events of more than twenty years. While I cannot trace the source of my knowledge the fact remains clear. It is therefore safe to assert, that at this juncture but few more than 500 of the 55th Illinois stood ready with flashing eyes and beating hearts to engage in the impending contest with overwhelming numbers.

Colonel Stuart iterates and reiterates in his report that he had here but 800 men of his brigade present. These were the men, barring the few already injured, who shed the blood and are entitled to the glory of this isolated conflict. These are the few men gathered from happy homes in Illinois who, without experience or experienced officers, without the guiding star of a brigadier or major general, without a single piece of artillery; who, with only stern patriotism and forty rounds, met the great wave of secession, and for hours withstood it upon this historic ravine. When they left it, one-half their number were dead or bleeding upon its rugged border.

It here becomes necessary, to a proper appreciation of this section of the battle, that we ascertain what portion of the confederate army was opposed to the 800 of Stuart's brigade gathered at this point. Every history concedes, that all of Chalmers' brigade grappled with us. It consisted of the 5th, 7th, 9th and 10th Mississippi, the 52nd Tennessee, and Gage's battery—in all 2,039 men. It now appears that Jackson's brigade was also engaged against Stuart's two regiments. This brigade embraced the 17th, 18th and 19th Alabama, 2nd Texas, and Girady's battery—in all, 2,208 men. If this be true, then these two regiments of Stuart's, without support or artillery, withstood for more than two hours, upon the borders of this ravine, the assaults of 4,247 men and two batteries, less the trifling loss they had already incurred in the assault upon Prentiss.

Up to a recent date all writers on the battle of Shiloh, following the hiatus in Sherman's report, made but little mention of Stuart's brigade, speaking of it in general terms as opposed to Chalmers' brigade. The isolated character of the contest on this portion of the field—a part of a great battle made up of detached contests—affords some excuse for this cursory but unjust method of treatment. In view of recent congressional and other publications, it now becomes plain that in addition to Chalmers' brigade, Jackson's brigade was engaged in the attack upon Stuart.

Probably the most elaborate and complete history of the battle of Shiloh yet written is found in Colonel Roman's "Life of General Beauregard," upon whose staff he served, and from whose pages I quote in proof of the above. On page 289, Vol. I., he says that "General Johnston on the right led Chalmers' and Jackson's brigades back across the ravine, three-quarters of a mile to the right, until the right of Chalmers rested on Lick creek bottom, Jackson forming on his left, where they were halted about half an hour until the position of *Stuart's* brigade could be ascertained." Upon page 292, same volume, it is stated that it was scarcely 10 o'clock when Stuart's skirmish line was reached, Jackson opening the conflict under General Johnston's personal order. Speaking of the principal conflict along the ravine, he describes the ground very accurately, and says Stuart had at that time but 800 men, and that he maintained a creditable resistance against greatly superior numbers. He adds in a note that Stuart was without artillery, and as to infantry was greatly outnumbered. On the following page, in speaking of the position of confederate troops at that time, the author says that on the extreme right, three-quarters of a mile from other troops, Chalmers' and Jackson's brigades of Withers' division were carrying on the attack against Stuart. Upon page 295, in speaking of a later phase of the battle, he says that these two brigades had been gradually forcing back Stuart's two regiments, sweeping with their right the Tennessee bottom, until about 3 o'clock Chalmers' brigade was struck by the shells of the gunboat Tyler. This not only sustains the assertion that Stuart's two regiments fought two whole brigades, but shows that such contest was kept up till shortly before three o'clock, as will be further commented upon hereafter.

An examination of the reports of Withers, Chalmers, Jackson, and

subordinates, shows conclusively that these two brigades acted together and were engaged against Stuart's two regiments.

All of these reports agree that, after Prentiss' left was driven back, the two brigades in question were together taken from three-fourths of a mile to one mile to their right and our left. The slightest knowledge of the incidents of the battle shows that no troops were there for them to attack, other than Stuart's brigade. If Jackson was not so engaged, his action is totally unaccounted for. Neither of these brigade commanders or their subordinates speak of artillery being opposed to them in this portion of the battle. This is the strongest of negative testimony, because Stuart had no artillery from first to last—a fact hardly existing as to any other brigade. General Jackson, commanding one brigade, says that after the contest with Prentiss, and after the removal of perhaps half a mile to the right, he took position on the left of General Chalmers, a camp of the enemy, just opposite his centre. Prentiss' camps had before that time been captured, and that this camp opposite his centre was to the rebel right half a mile. No camps other than Stuart's were ever there. Colonel Wheeler, commanding the 19th Alabama, of Jackson's brigade, says that after losing a few men in the attack upon the left of Prentiss, they were marched about a mile to the right, where they were engaged the remainder of the day; that General Sidney Johnston ordered the regiment with his own lips to charge the camp of the 59th Illinois. Now, the 59th Illinois was not engaged in the battle of Shiloh at all. The camp of no Illinois regiment, other than the 55th, was within a mile of that place. This was a mile or so to the left of Prentiss, and where there were no camps of any regiments other than Stuart's brigade. Hence the conclusion is irresistible that the camp he calls the 59th Illinois was that of the 55th Illinois. He might easily mistake the number of the regiment, or any misprint might account for it, but that the name of the State from which it came is misstated, is not reasonable. The camp of no regiment, other than those of Stuart's, or those already captured, could have been reached nearer than one mile to their left and front. As a further proof that these two brigades were acting in unison, I cite Colonel Moore, of the 2d Texas, Jackson's brigade, who states that they were moved to the right and took position in the front line of battle on the left of Chalmers' brigade. Further on he speaks of the space between Jackson's right and Chalmers' left as being only sufficient for three companies, which he filled, and of advancing to the aid of the Mississippians. Every report will show that these two brigades co-operated, and were connected together in this portion of the conflict. In further support of my assertion, I appeal to the knowledge of every man of the 55th Illinois who was present, and who escaped, for proof of the fact that more than one battery was engaged against us. Their own observation will show that the Confederate line was too extensive to be composed of only one brigade. Chalmers had but one battery, the other must have belonged to Jackson's command.

I now restate the proposition that Stuart's two remaining regiments, without artillery, engaged the whole of Chalmers' and Jackson's brigades, consisting of nine full regiments and two batteries, or 4,247 men, exclusive of Clanton's cavalry, and assert that such proposition is proved.

Most northern accounts either fail to state how long this overwhelming force was held in check upon this ravine, or intimate that Stuart's brigade fell back about noon. Even Wm. Preston Johnson, in most particulars so accurate, by his text infers, and by his map shows, Stuart's brigade much further to the rear at noon. The position shown in the map was *never* occupied by this brigade. On the contrary, not one foot of ground was yielded from this position, just in rear of the Hamburg road and close by their camps, until between 2 and 3 o'clock p. m. This was more than six hours after Prentiss' division and the three brigades with General Sherman were repeatedly driven from their positions, and were far to the rear of their first line.

Using every means of knowledge within my power—my own recollection, aided by that of every one present with whom I have come in contact, and inferences drawn from various reports, I conclude that the real and supreme conflict upon the edge of the ravine, so frequently alluded to, commenced about or a little before noon. Its deadly character was seldom equalled during the late war, and never again experienced by the 55th Illinois. No one will deny but that that regiment did its duty everywhere. That its aggregate losses during the war, in proportion to its numbers, were among the largest. Yet upon this one spot, inside of three hours time, it lost about one-half its total casualties for the war.

When we take into account that this conflict was in direct opposition to the Confederate plan of turning the Union left; when we consider that no other body of troops, great or small, was between this point and the most direct route to the landing; when defeat of Stuart turned the whole Federal left; when the evident fact is stated that no other portion of the Federal left was nearer than three-fourths of a mile, or what is more probable, a full mile, of the river, the great importance of Stuart's stout resistance becomes apparent.

In proof of the assertion that the 55th Illinois did not yield the point in question until between 2 and 3 o'clock, I cite the report of Colonel Stuart, which received no criticism or modification at the hands of General Sherman. Such report states explicitly that the conflict lasted at this position upward of two hours. General Hurlburt states in his report that, at about 3 o'clock, Colonel Stuart sent him word that he was driven in. A half hour would be ample, and almost an unreasonable time to use in sending such word to Hurlburt, especially when his retreat was in the same direction.

Various Confederate reports state that at the close of this conflict they were greatly exhausted and out of ammunition. It is known to every survivor of the 55th that our ammunition was all expended at the time of leaving the ravine, and the cartridges of the dead and wounded were used. This fact is also stated in Colonel Stuart's report. Certainly, two hours or more were needed to expend this much "villainous saltpetre." General Chalmers, speaking of this portion of the conflict, and alluding to the retreat of our men, says: "About this time the gunboats from the river began to throw their shells among us."

By the report of Lieut. Gwin, commanding the gunboat Tyler, it appears that the first shot was fired at ten minutes before 3 o'clock. Col. Wheeler, of the 19th Alabama, already cited, in speaking of the

dislodgment of Stuart's men, says it was about 3 o'clock p.m. After Hurlburt received word from Stuart, at 3 p.m., he began to draw back, which movement exposed Prentiss and Wallace, and was followed by the surrender of about 2,200 men, including Prentiss. The latter says in his report, his surrender occurred at 5.30 p.m. That grand old fighter, Col. W. T. Shaw, of the 14th Iowa, who was captured on this portion of the field, says that he surrendered at a quarter before six o'clock. Notwithstanding that the flamboyant assertions of General McClernand gave color to the idea that General Prentiss surrendered much earlier in the day, it is now settled beyond controversy that such event occurred about the time mentioned. All Confederate reports agree with this.

The troops engaged against Stuart participated and partly brought about this surrender which, as before stated, occurred between 5 and 6 o'clock p.m. The distance from where they fought the 55th Illinois to the point of surrender, was just about one mile to the right and rear. Certainly not more than two and a half hours were consumed in making that distance, when practically unopposed. The reports of Withers and subordinates all concur in the general idea that the next operation they engaged in was the capture of Prentiss and that no great time elapsed after Stuart was driven from his position.

Without designing to make this a sketch of personal adventure, I will state my own judgment on this point, and my reasons therefor. I was the first time wounded upon the opposite or north side of the ravine, just as the retreat of the 55th Illinois had commenced. The line of their retreat obliqued considerably to what had been our right or inland from the river, while I, more from accident than design, pursued a course through the ravine toward the landing, and struck the river at the place where the gunboats first commenced firing.

Somewhat contrary to the generally received opinion, this was fully three-quarters of a mile up stream from the landing, and not at the mouth of the large ravine about one-fourth of a mile in that direction. To reach this point the distance traveled was just about three-quarters of a mile. This agrees with Colonel Thoms' map, and has been verified by recent inspection. I had not been lying on the bank of the river five minutes when the first shot was fired from the gunboat, and I heard the order given for that purpose. Making all allowance for my disabled condition and subsequent wounds, and also considering the help I obtained, I could not have been more than half an hour in reaching that point. I took considerable interest in getting away.

The time when the first shot was fired from the gunboats, as before stated, is definitely settled as occurring ten minutes before 3 o'clock. In fact, it was the falling back of Stuart that made it safe for the gunboats to open, and placed Chalmers' command within reach of its shells. All this furnishes conclusive proof of what is known personally to every one of Stuart's brigade present and now living, viz.: that the line just at the rear of their camp, and along this ravine, was not abandoned until after 2 o'clock.

I have thus tried, in the light of reports lately made public, and in unison with the knowledge of all survivors, confirmed by recent personal examination, to do justice to the 55th Illinois as to facts not gen-

erally appearing in the literature of this great battle. To do all this, that regiment suffered a terrible baptism of fire. Its loss exceeded that of any other regiment engaged in the battle of Shiloh, except the 9th Illinois. The best authority on this point is undoubtedly the table given in the tenth volume of the Rebellion Records, as published by Congress. It is made up from a full examination of all available documents. It differs in giving a very few more killed and wounded than the report of General Sherman, dated April 9. The latter, within forty-eight hours after the battle, and half that time having been occupied by an advance towards Monterey, could not have gathered material for a report of absolute correctness. The table referred to gives the loss of the 55th Illinois as 51 killed and 197 wounded, being a total of 248, exclusive of missing.

For performing the deeds and suffering, the loss herein described, this brigade gets this, and only this, beggarly mention in the report of its division commander: "My second brigade, Colonel Stuart, was detached near two miles from my headquarters. He had to fight his own battle on Sunday, as the enemy interposed between him and General Prentiss early in the day." Then follows a mention of Colonels Stuart and Smith, and the statement that he has not yet received the report of Colonel Stuart, and therefore forbears to mention names. All his elaborate remarks are devoted to the other brigades and regiments of his division, and not even the name of the glorious old 55th. So far as he is concerned, it had no existence, except that it is named in the table of killed and wounded. Had it not in fact existed, I opine the history of the battle of Shiloh would have been different, and the galaxy of stars possibly less.

In order to estimate the full measure of glory due to this regiment, it becomes necessary to compare the price of blood which it paid, with others who paid less but gathered more.

Sherman's division consisted of twelve regiments of infantry, four batteries and two battalions of cavalry, yet the 55th Illinois lost about one-sixth of the killed and wounded of that division. The 55th Illinois lost more than five-eighths of the killed, and more than one-half the wounded of its own brigade. The 55th Illinois lost five-sixths as many killed and nearly as many wounded as the whole of Hildebrand's brigade. If we eliminate from the loss of that brigade the loss of the 77th Ohio on April 8th, which is included in Sherman's report as losses at Shiloh, then the 55th Illinois lost more than that whole brigade. Such loss, on the 8th of April referred to, was in a reconnaissance, wherein the 77th Ohio inadvertently got in the way of and was ran over by Forrest's cavalry—an awful warning to infantry regiments to keep out of the way of cavalry.

The 55th Illinois lost two-fifths more killed and about as many wounded as Buckland's brigade of the same division. These last two brigades formed to the right and left of Shiloh church, at the very key point of the position, and were under the personal observation and command of General Sherman, and at his hands get pages of praise, apology or mild censure. Most of these regiments lost fewer killed than some companies of the 55th, and few of them many more, except the 77th Ohio. The 55th Illinois lost about one-thirtieth of the total

killed and wounded of Grant's entire army, engaged both days, which army consisted of over seventy regiments of infantry, more than twenty batteries, and several thousand cavalry. Prentiss' division comprised ten large regiments of infantry, two batteries and eight companies of cavalry; yet the 55th Illinois lost about one-fourth as many killed and wounded as this whole division, which occupied a position of especial importance.

Lew Wallace brought upon the field, the second day of the battle, about 6,500 men, who go "thundering down the ages" in gorgeous rhetoric; yet the 55th Illinois lost 25 per cent. more killed and only 20 per cent. less wounded than that whole division.

General Buel brought to battle, on the second day, according to different authorities, from 20,000 to 30,000 men—say, for the purpose of this discussion, 25,000. It has been strenuously claimed, in certain quarters, that they saved the battle from utter defeat, and waded through seas of blood. Their literature is lurid with flaming diction. The smallest private in the rear rank on the extreme left often gets, at the hands of his superior, more praise than the entire 55th Illinois; yet the latter regiment lost more than one fifth as many killed, and one-ninth as many wounded, as this great body, fifty times larger than itself. It is not insinuated but that they did their duty; but their fighting was child's play compared with that of the first day, and very few of its large regiments lost as many as the average company of the 55th Illinois.

It is only common justice to claim for the 55th Illinois and 54th Ohio that, hid away in the deep woods and among the rugged ravines on the extreme left flank at Shiloh, they performed deeds of magnificent valor that entitled them to conspicuous mention.

In view of these facts, is it any wonder that we are disposed to murmur at the parsimony of General Sherman's praise? Is it unreasonable that we claim a place in the history we helped make? May we not, even at this late date, place garlands upon the graves of our comrades? If those whose spurs we helped win, and whose stars we helped fix, fail to write for us, may we not pen our own eulogy? Although our dead comrades lie in unnamed graves, others go halting and crippled through life; others still are bowed and suffering from disease; thank God, it was given us to do. Few could have done as well, none better, many worse. Men must bleed and die, widows and orphans weep, and mothers mourn, to save nations.

In all herein written, I accord to the 54th Ohio its share of praise. Their living stood with ours, shoulder to shoulder, in battle. The rich warm blood ran out from their ranks and mingled with ours, and the same earth drank it up.

The same stars at the same hour shown upon the faces of our dead and their dead.

The same breeze that wafted the white soul of an Illinois boy to its Maker, down the line a little way kissed the pallid lips of the Ohio hero.

We shall be glad to meet them on earth.

We hope to meet them in heaven.

On the conclusion of the essay, the Committee on Resolutions presented the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That Capt. L. B. Crooker receive the thanks of the comrades at this reunion for his able and accurate essay on the battle of Shiloh, and the part taken therein by the 55th Illinois Infantry, and that Captain Crooker be requested to furnish a copy of said essay, to be filed with the records of this reunion.

Three cheers were given for Comrade Crooker, the Benediction was pronounced, and the meeting adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1 o'clock the members of the association, preceded by the Band, and escorted by Joe Hooker Post G. A. R., formed in line in front of the Opera House for the purpose of visiting Greenwood Cemetery, situated about a quarter of a mile south of the business centre, where repose the ashes of several of their former comrades. On the way, the column stopped in front of Mangrum's photograph gallery, in order to have their photographs taken in a group. The photographer succeeded in capturing on glass the 110 survivors present, but he didn't prove as hard a master as was Wirz, of Andersonville fame, and quickly liberated his prisoners on parole at one dollar per head, bestowing upon those who paid, a handsomely executed 9x14 photograph of the group.

From the gallery the line moved south on Main street to the cemetery, and as they approached its sacred confines, the members of the Grand Army opened ranks, and with uncovered heads, the veterans of the 55th marched in and formed about the graves of their former comrades. *Here lies the sacred dust of some of the heroes of the 55th, who, in the words of the immortal Lincoln, "gave the full measure of their devotion that the government of the people, by the people and for the people, might not perish from the earth." Their names are as follows:

S. L. Thompson, of Co. D, died June 1, 1862.

John Thorn, of Co. D, died June 16, 1862.

J. M. Yocom, of Co. A, died May 31, 1862.

Lt. Col. Jacob M. Augustine, killed at Kenesaw Mt., June 27, 1864.

F. Parvin, of Co. D, died March 4, 1868.

Comrade Crooker, being requested to say a few words, spoke as follows:

Old and crippled, bald and gray, we meet, after the fifth of a century, around the graves of a few of our former comrades. Here in the heart of the continent, upon the bosom of our prairies; here under the sunlight of heaven and the folds of our flag, we assemble to pay tribute to them. Here, where the birds sing and the flowers bloom above them, in the quiet beauty of a Christian cemetery, surrounded by emblems of

*NOTE.—There are buried in this beautiful cemetery seventy-five soldiers of the late war, and fourteen soldiers of the war of 1812, all of whose graves are strewn with flowers every year.

Christian burial, they lie as peacefully as though their eyes had never flashed in the smoke of battle. In such a place, on such an occasion, human eloquence is mockery, and emotion, too deep and too sacred to take the form of words, fills every bosom. The silent tear and the bowed head are the fittest tributes. Silence is the most appropriate eloquence. In this spirit, let us reverently listen to the divine invocation.

Chaplain Geo. R. Palmer then offered up a prayer full of deep religious feeling, that touched the hearts of all, and it was not soldiers' tears alone that flowed, as memories of the past flitted through the minds of those present.

"The muffled drum's sad roll has beat
The soldier's last tattoo ;
No more on life's parade shall meet
That brave and fallen few.

"No vision of the morrow's strife
The warrior's dream alarms ;
No braying horn nor screaming fife
At dawn shall call to arms.

"Rest on, embalmed and sainted dead !
Dear as the blood ye gave ;
No impious footstep here shall tread
The herbage of your grave."

During the return march to the Opera House, the veterans were saluted by the children of the public schools, in open ranks, each of them holding a little flag, a compliment which touched the hearts of the old soldiers, and to which they responded with uncovered heads.

On reassembling at the Opera House, the following resolution, offered by Comrade Hartsook, was adopted:

Resolved, That all corrections necessary to the fullest possible accuracy of the Regimental History, as read by Comrade J. G. Brown, be submitted to him by comrades, and, if found correct, allowed and incorporated by the Regimental Historian, and that the history, so corrected, be embodied in and become a part of the proceedings of this, the first regimental reunion.

Comrade Francis P. Fisher reported that he had been engaged in an effort to ascertain the whereabouts of the colors of the 55th, which were captured on the 22d of July, 1864, before Atlanta, Ga. By correspondence with Bishop John W. Beckwith, of Georgia, and Judge Henry B. Tompkins, of Atlanta, Ga., it had been ascertained that the 39th Alabama, of which Judge Tompkins was then Adjutant, captured on that day a blue silk flag from a regiment stationed to the right of the Georgia Railroad going out from Atlanta. Judge Tompkins stated that the captured flag was given by him to Maj. Gen. H. D. Clayton, of Clayton, Ala., and that he had no doubt that if the flag was still in the possession of Gen. Clayton, and it should prove to be

the missing flag, the latter would be only too glad to send it to the 55th at their reunion. But owing to Gen. Clayton's absence from home, no response had yet been received from him. Bishop Beckwith, in a very cordial letter, said "it would be a genuine pleasure to know, that when the veterans of your regiment meet on the 30th of October, the colors so dear to you all should be handed you by your old foes in token of a friendship which, I trust, time will only make the stronger and more lasting," and he added the hope, "that the reunion will show that the Master has spared the lives of many of the gallant men who in the late war illustrated the courage and devotion of American citizens." Comrade Fisher promised to follow up the matter and report * further. He also stated, for the information of the comrades, that of the three stands of colors received by the 55th, the first was presented to them by the Government when they set out from Camp Douglas, in 1861, and was sent back to Chicago from Vicksburg, in 1863, and deposited with the Chicago Historical Society. The second stand of colors was also presented to them by the Government, and was captured, † as stated above, July 22, 1864. A third stand of colors was presented to the regiment by Mr. Fred P. Fisher, of Chicago, and reached them in North Carolina, after the march to the sea, in time for the grand review at Washington, D. C., at the close of the war. This flag had all the battles in which the regiment had participated inscribed upon it. It is not certainly known what became of this flag, but it is supposed that it was deposited in the rooms of the Chicago Historical Society, and if so, it must have been consumed, together with the first flag, in the great fire of October, 1871.

President Andress then stated that arrangements had been made by some of the comrades for a presentation of a cane to Capt. Francis H. Shaw, and that Comrade Joseph Hartsook had prepared an address for the occasion. Captain Shaw being absent, Comrades H. H. Joslin, D. C. Andress and Joseph Hartsook were designated, by a vote of the

* NOTE.—Since the reunion the following letter has been received from Gen. Clayton, which explains itself. Any further search in this direction would seem to be unnecessary.—COMMITTEE.

Hon. H. B. Tompkins, Atlanta, Ga.:

DEAR JUDGE—Since the receipt of your first letter, which reached my home in due course of mail in my absence, and came to hand some time after, I have been so constantly engaged that it escaped me. The flag of which you speak, with that of the 13th U. S. colored, captured at Nashville, and a number of cavalry guidons, captured the second night after the battle at Nashville, were in some way lost from my headquarter's wagon, but when and where, I am unable to say.

Very truly,

CLAYTON, Ala., Nov. 3, 1884.

(Signed) H. D. CLAYTON.

† NOTE.—It may interest some of the comrades to know that Comrade Jas. W. Gay, our brave color bearer, who stood by his colors so gallantly July 22, 1864, has preserved a piece of the fringe belonging to the second flag, and a star belonging to the first flag, which relics he has had carefully framed, and says he prizes them as his own life. Comrade Joslin, too, has a piece of the first flag.—COMMITTEE.

comrades, as a committee to receive the cane and see that it be duly forwarded to him at Leominster, Mass. Comrade Hartsook then read the following beautiful and appropriate presentation address:

PRESENTATION ADDRESS.

BY JOSEPH HARTSOOK.

The history of the American colonies, from their earliest settlement at Plymouth Rock and Jamestown, on down through their oft-repeated declarations of rights, heroic struggles for independence, closer compact and stronger government in the present Federal Union of States, furnish the brightest and most entertaining chapter in the one universal history of civil government. It reads like a romance or a poetic legend.

The story of the Mayflower and the planting of that little colony of hunted, persecuted, sturdy refugees of Plymouth Rock, on the bleak and inhospitable shores of New England in the winter time, their sufferings, their hardships and their heroic endurance—how they braved death at the hand of the wily savage, from disease, famine and pestilence, never losing their faith in God or their confidence in man, but with a steadfast and unfaltering purpose pursuing the even tenor of their way, conquering the savage of the forest and all the opposing forces of nature and circumstances, and gradually spreading themselves throughout all that sea-girt coast until a nation within themselves—shall never grow old or be forgotten while human hearts beat in sympathy for each other in a common want or a common sorrow.

And hardly less thrilling or enchanting is the story of that other colony at Jamestown, where, after repeated efforts, a permanent planting was made, and where, in its after history, human endurance and bravery furnish a page of history that shall remain bright forever.

Plymouth Rock and Jamestown, with their marvelous stories, are the first and but representative names of others as dear, and other stories as sweet, which in an unbroken chain enter into and compose the body of our history. This history is not brightest and best to the American alone, or those who live under and enjoy this beneficent government of ours, with all of its wide extended blessings, but everywhere, in every land and among every people, where the current thought and the pulsing life are abreast and in harmony with the dominant Anglo-saxon civilization of this age, before which all others are giving way.

Passing over the time of our declaration of rights until their final culmination in the great *Magna Charta* of our liberties—the Declaration of Independence—and their after struggle and sacrifices in maintenance thereof, and what student of history, in this age, can read that page to the close and stifle the emotion or the rising thought, *they deserved to be free.*

Lexington and Concord, Trenton and Valley Forge, Bunker Hill and Yorktown are but a few of the many priceless names that the struggle for independence gave to this chapter of our history. These names are endeared to us as much by the price they cost us as for the victories they represent—names that were baptised into immortality by the best blood of the best men of the eighteenth century. It is no dis-

paragement to the noble band of civilians at home, during the time of the rebellion, who so nobly sustained our armies in the field and furnished the sinews of war, without which we could not have succeeded, that the names, the virtues and the memories of our revolutionary sires are dearer to the veteran Union soldier, whose patriotism has been purified by fire upon the field of carnage, than the noblest Roman of them all.

Without a name, without a history, without the experience that comes from the enjoyment of free government—with these only in the thought and the ideal—without wealth, prestige or power at home, and without influence or credit abroad, they set up their banners, and relying upon God and the justness of their cause, and with a courage that was invincible, they wrought out their ideals and won them all. *We* had them all and knew their worth, had grown up to manhood or maturer years amidst their inspiring surroundings.

It is not necessary that we minify the work of our own day, in which we have had some humble part, in order that the work of others be accorded its just place and due estimate. But when, in the march of time, the coming of events and the conflict of ideas over the inalienable, God-given rights of man, applied to others, as we had claimed and won them from a proud and haughty king, before all the world, for ourselves, the “irrepressible conflict” had come, and the reverberation of canon and the clash of resounding arms was heard in the land, and all the citizens of this republic were face to face with the one question, *country or no country*, it is very much to your credit that you decided for country, and went to the front to make that decision effective and good. You could have done less—perhaps more. The honor lies rather in the doing. If you stood at your post and did what you could at any and every sacrifice, then there were none that did more or are deserving of more at the hands of a reunited country, a great, prosperous and happy people. The memory of your doing comes back to me, after these twenty years of peace, as a half-forgotten dream, but how terribly real. I take up the old rosters of the different companies and run over the old familiar names—familiar yet. I look into your faces and upon your maimed and wounded forms. I look upon the vacant places among you of comrades who marched out with us from home and friends and all that was dear of earth, and never came back again; whose graves are scattered far and wide over that sunny land, and up North here, in our cemeteries, over this Eden garden of ours—the father, the husband, the brother, the son and the friend. I go into these homes again and speak of the war time, and again I hear the voice of anguish and sorrow.

I recall again the fatiguing march and the quiet camp, the bivouac and the deadly hospital, and try to picture to myself those prison pens of perdition, where our brave boys were starved to death; and the hour of conflict, when the dead and the dying were lying all about you. I know something of your doing, and what it cost you, and am not unmindful that the price was well considered and weighed before it was paid. The sacrifice was a willing sacrifice and freely paid. None would alter that record.

Your doing has added another leaf to this brightest chapter in all

history, and written upon its fair page other names that can never be effaced while civil government endures upon the earth—Shiloh, Arkansas Post, Vicksburg, Missionary Ridge, Kennesaw Mountain and Atlanta—names endeared to us as much by the price they cost us as by the victories they represent; names that were baptized into immortality by the best blood of the best men of the nineteenth century.

The cost of our victories was a great and terrible cost, but the victories were great as well. Who can measure their greatness or estimate their worth standing upon the vantage ground of these twenty years of peace and prosperity?

It is becoming and right, that, on this occasion, the first reunion of the 55th Regt. Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, we should remember the unequal burdens that rest upon brave comrades—some of them the bravest of the brave and the truest of the true. There are a few names of officers and men that have rested under a cloud during all these years since their muster out of the United States service—whose names are under seeming disgrace and dishonor—that call for redress while there are yet multitudes of fellow participants for witnesses in the cases. My appearance before you on this occasion is to emphasize a case of this kind—of the deepest, darkest wrong visited upon any member of the 55th regiment. I but voice the sentiments of my comrades, one and all, when I say there was no truer, more patriotic or braver officer or soldier in all our regiment than he on whom it fell. *I speak of Captain F. H. Shaw.*

Commencing with us at Camp Douglass, Chicago, at the very first as Second Lieutenant, he had suffered with us the fatigues and privations of the camp and the march, the dangers of the battle on many a hotly contested field, and always with credit and honor to himself. He had steadily won his way onward and upward to the senior Captaincy and the command of the regiment, which he held when first arrested by General Lightburn, August 4, 1864, and dismissed from the army by order of General O. O. Howard, August 11, 1864, which was confirmed by S. O. War Dep't, No. 284.

The exact situation may be set forth the clearer in Captain Shaw's own report of this event: "For several days previous to my arrest, the regiment had been subjected to excessive fatigue, continuing day and night, and the day previous captured an extremely perilous position in advance of our main line, and during the night intrenched ourselves as best we could, expecting every moment an attempt by the enemy to dislodge us. At this time we were about three hundred yards from the enemy's main line of defense, and about the same distance from our own main line, with the approaches to us in command of the enemy's guns, making it very hazardous to pass. The first one I saw was Lieut. Martin, A. D. C. of General Lightburn, with orders to still further advance our line. I said to him: 'You see our situation, so near the enemy's main line of defense, with no chance of shelter between us, my command in a state of extreme exhaustion, and I wish you to inform the General of the facts, and I do not think he will want the attack made.' No answer ever reached me. An attempt was made to advance the main line, but before it reached our advanced position, fell back to its starting point, as any one would predict to a certainty, knowing the situation."

After Captain Shaw's arrest and dismissal, a petition to the President of the United States, praying for his reinstatement, and signed by all the officers of our regiment and many in adjoining regiments, who were knowing to the facts, was drawn up and forwarded through the Judge Advocate. Whether it ever reached the President or not, we do not know.

The arbitrary and unjust use of military law may give power and authority to go within three hundred yards of the main line of defense of a great and powerful enemy, and arrest and ignominiously dismiss, without court martial, a brave officer, but those who execute the law, and have to go three hundred yards in advance of their own main line—the farthest advanced possible—to find their victim, where he has fought his way, led his command and held his position, do the law violence, themselves dishonor, and bring everlasting disgrace upon the military service of the United States.

Captain Shaw, we honor with you our brave comrades who died upon the field of battle facing the foe; those who sacrificed their lives from disease or wounds received in a common service. We would not forget the chosen few whose names are on the written roll of honor—the bravest of the brave, God-given heroes—whose names will be handed down to the latest generations, after the monuments above their graves and ours shall have mouldered back to the dust, and the little mounds above our resting places shall have been leveled to the earth again; but along beside their names on that roll of honor and fame, your own faithful service for three years, and your own brave actions on that 4th day of August, 1864, shall give you a place and a name as well. History and posterity will do you justice, and high above every other consideration is the one, and let us rejoice together, our victories stand and our labors are secure.

Captain Shaw, it is a very pleasant and agreeable task that has been imposed upon me by these old comrades of ours. They have delegated me in their name and for them—and with them I have a part—to present you with this beautiful cane, as a slight token of our respect, esteem and the honor in which we hold you, for three years of faithful and devoted service to the country, and especially for your unexampled bravery and heroism while commanding the regiment before Atlanta, Ga., August 4, 1864, and for your modest and unassuming qualities as a comrade and a man. You need not this momento to tell you of the regard, esteem and the honor in which we hold you, but may it prove a reminder of the many trying, happy and eventful days that we spent together in the army in defense of the "Old Flag" and the "Union of these States." May it revive in your memory, to the very latest days of your life, the many trying and happy scenes through which we passed together. May it prove a staff for your declining years, and may you have many years of health and happiness to enjoy the memories, rather than the strength, it brings you, is the wish of your old comrades-in-arms. It bears this beautiful and appropriate inscription:

"CAPTAIN F. H. SHAW,
55th Regt. Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry,

A STAFF FOR YOUR DECLINING YEARS.

"Presented by surviving comrades at the first reunion, held at Canton, Ill., October 30 and 31, 1884, as a token of their appreciation of his faithful service to the country, and to commemorate his unexampled bravery and heroism, while commanding the regiment, August 4, 1864, before Atlanta, Ga.

"This cane was cut near the old camp at Shiloh, April 6, 1864, by Lieut. D. C. Andress."

With a full heart, with pleasure and rejoicing, and with gratitude to Almighty God in sparing so many of us to meet together in this *first reunion*, after these twenty years, and for the work of this hour, I now surrender this gift into your hands.

At the close of the address, Capt. Slattery suggested that the privilege of contributing to the cost of the cane be extended to any of the members present, no one to give more than \$1. The suggestion was at once acted upon, and the whole amount was forthwith raised.

At 4:30 P. M. an adjournment was had to witness the annual parade of the Canton Fire Department, and comrades availed themselves of the recess to indulge in social intercourse and enjoyment.

At 6:30 P. M. all the comrades were invited to attend a prayer meeting at the same place as on the previous day, and a large number gladly improved the opportunity.

EVENING SESSION.

At 7:30 P. M. the comrades reassembled at the Opera House, and prayer was offered by Comrade Hartsook, after which there was music by the Band. The Committee on Resolutions presented the following, which was adopted:

Resolved, That the thanks of the surviving members of the 55th Vet. Vol. Infantry are hereby extended to Joe Hooker Post G. A. R. for their fraternal invitation, hearty reception and generous entertainment. To the citizens of Canton for their generous donation of funds to defray the expenses of this reunion. To the ladies of the city for the royal manner in which they have served us. To the Bands and Glee Club for their sweet strains of music and cheering songs.

The Committee on Resolutions also submitted the following letter, and recommended that it be sent to Sergeant James W. Gay by the Secretary of the association:

CANTON, Ill., Oct. 31, 1884.

DEAR COMRADE—We, the surviving members of the 55th Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, in reunion assembled, acknowledge with gratitude the receipt of your kind letter read by our Secretary, and beg to express to you our approval and appreciation of your heroic efforts in so nobly holding your place and defending our colors on the day of their capture, before Atlanta, Ga., July 22, 1864.

The letter was heartily endorsed by all present, and ordered to be sent as recommended.

The Treasurer, Comrade Harrell, made his report as follows, and all bills were audited and ordered paid:

TREASURER'S REPORT.

CANTON, ILL., Oct. 31, 1884.

To the officers and members of the Association of Fifty-Fifth Ills. Vet. Vol. Infantry:

Your Treasurer would make the following Report of monies received and expended :

*Amount received from all sources.....	\$137 55
Amount expended.....	<u>130 22</u>
Balance on hand.....	\$7 33

Respectfully yours,

W. J. HARRELL, *Treasurer.*

On motion, it was ordered that Comrades John T. McAuley, Francis P. Fisher and L. B. Crooker be and hereby are appointed a committee to prepare a full and complete history of the 55th Regt. Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry.

On motion, it was ordered that \$25 be paid to H. H. Joslin, Secretary, for his services and expenses connected with the reunion. The motion was subsequently amended by increasing the amount to \$50, and was adopted. The amount was at once raised by subscription among the comrades present, without calling on the Treasurer of the association. The Secretary returned thanks in an appropriate manner for this substantial mark of their favor, and promised a continued faithful performance of his duties.

After music by the band, the meeting resolved itself into a love-feast. The Opera House was crowded almost to suffocation, and everybody present seemed to enter into the spirit of the occasion. Hundreds were unable to gain admittance to the hall. Comrade Crooker, being called for, responded by eulogizing the good people of Canton. Comrade Presson complimented the ladies in a graceful manner, and paid a handsome tribute to the members of the band, who had contributed so much to our enjoyment.

Comrade Andress gave a song, concluding, by special request, with "Tobias and Tobunkus." The Hon. Granville Barrere, being invited to the platform, in a few happy remarks eulogized the volunteer soldier, and especially the soldiers of the 55th Ill. Vet. Vol. Infantry, and on behalf of the citizens of Canton, invited the veterans to return there at some future time, as the citizens of Canton had an especially warm place in their hearts for them.

Comrade J. August Smith related how Comrade Brock and himself

*For a more detailed statement of receipts see page 67 in Report of Committee on Printing.
COMMITTEE.

were arrested for shooting a pig near Corinth, Miss., in the summer of 1862. Comrade John G. Brown told how brave Capt. "Bob" Oliver was wont to bring in the forage. Comrade D. C. Andress told a story about foraging. Comrade Hartsook related how Capt. Jacob Augustine had a presentiment of his approaching death, and rehearsed the circumstances. Comrade Brown read a short sketch of army life. By request, Comrades Fred and Peter Ebersold, Andress and Songster sang "Zwille wille wing bum bum."

Just before final adjournment, which took place at 9:30 P. M., the time and place for holding the next reunion was discussed, the matter being finally left to the officers of the association.

The band then played "Recollections of the war," the benediction was pronounced by the Rev. J. August Smith, and the President declared the association adjourned *sine die*.

Then followed a scene of general hand-shaking and bidding of "good-byes." This was the saddest feature of the reunion of the little handful of men, who had not met for twenty years, who had marched so many long and weary miles under a hot Southern sun, and who had fought side by side on many a hotly contested battlefield, where hundreds of their comrades had yielded up their lives, a willing sacrifice, that our country might live on in unity and strength. Thus ended the first reunion of one of the grandest and most loyal of the veteran regiments of the late war. That a gracious Providence may permit the few survivors to live and enjoy many such reunions, is the fervent prayer of every grateful heart.

D. C. ANDRESS, *President.*

H. H. JOSLIN, *Secretary.*

NOTE.

In submitting this Report of the first Re-union of the survivors of the Fifty-Fifth Illinois Vet. Vol. Infantry, your Secretary is conscious of its many errors and imperfections. The noise and confusion incident to a gathering of old soldiers, and the want of time, in which to prepare and present, in an orderly and systematic manner, the business of the Association, conspired to prevent that connected and complete Report that we would desire. During the sessions of the Re-union, only the briefest possible notes of the proceedings in general could be kept. From these, after adjournment, the connected account was written out, which is herewith submitted. Such as it is, it is submitted for your perusal, in the hope that you may have as much pleasure therein as was taken in its preparation.

Justly proud of the Regiment to which we belonged, let us seek to crystalize into history its achievements, that we may perpetuate, if possible, to the latest generations, the story of its sufferings, its sacrifices and the spirit of its exalted patriotism. This work, in permanent and enduring form, is due alike to ourselves, to the coming generations, and to our fallen comrades, whose voices are forever stilled by the last tattoo. The labor and cost of a permanent history of the Regiment are as nothing, when compared with the toils and sacrifices of a single comrade through three years of service. Let no comrade rest nor deem any self-denial too great until this be done, and long after it shall be accomplished, may we meet in annual re-union, to recount the stories of the march, the bivouac and the camp.

H. H. JOSLIN, *Secretary.*

A desire to perpetuate the humorous features of camp life, must be our apology, if any is needed, for printing the following songs, which have a local interest only, especially for the comrades of Company I.

COMMITTEE.

TOBIAS AND TOBUNKUS.

Old Grimes is dead that good old soul,
We ne'er shall see him more;
He used to wear a long tailed coat,
All buttoned down before.

Now this old man he had two sons,
And these two sons were brothers;
Tobias was the name of one,
Tobunkus was the other.

Now these two boys to the theatre went,
For which they both saw fit;
Tobias in the gallery sat,
Tobunkus in the pit.

Now these two boys their stories told,
And told them very good;
Tobias up to heaven went,
Tobunkus he sawed wood.

DOCTOR EISENBARTH.

Ich bin der Doctor Eisenbarth,
Zwille wille wing bom bom,
Kurir die Leut nach meiner Art,
Zwille wille wing bom bom.
Kann machen dass die Blinden gehen,
Zwille wille wing juchheirassa,
Und die Lahmen wieder sehen,
Zwille wille wing bom bom,
CHO.—Lautoria Lautoria zwille wille wing juchheirassa,
Lautoria Lautoria zwille wille wing bom bom.

Einst kam ein Mann zu mir heran,
Der hatte einen hohlen Zahn,
Ich schoss ihn 'raus mit der Pistol,
Ach Gott wie ist dem Mann so wohl.—CHO.

Des Kuesters Sohn zu Diedeldum,
Dem gab ich zehn Pfund Opium,
Drauf schlief er Jahe, Tag und Nacht,
Und ist bis jetzt noch nicht erwacht.—CHO.

Sodann dem Hauptmann von der Lust,
Nahm ich drei Bonben aus der Brust,
Die Schmerzen waren ihm zu gross,
Wohl ihm, er ist die Juden loss.—CHO.

LIST OF NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF SURVIVORS OF THE LATE
 FIFTY-FIFTH REGIMENT ILLINOIS INFANTRY,
 SO FAR AS KNOWN.

Andress, D. C.,	Mendota,	Ills.
Averill, John,	Waterloo,	Iowa.
Aagesen, N. S.,	Rockford,	Ills.
Anthony, E. B.,	Northfield,	Minn.
Augustine, Henry,	Normal,	Ills.
Austin, Joseph,	Milford, Dickenson Co.,	Iowa.
Andrews, George,	Creston,	Iowa.
Ayers, M. L.,	Coin, Paige Co.,	Iowa.
Abbott, Joseph,	Swan Creek,	Ills.
Athren, Thomas J.,	Fiatt, Fulton Co.,	Ills.
Arndt, Hugo,	Cideburn, Ozaukee Co.,	Wis.
Armstrong, John C.,	Holton, Jackson Co.,	Kan.
Burnside, I. L.,	Braidwood,	Ills.
Bowen, A. H.,	Duluth,	Minn.
Bishop, Isaac,	Kenosha,	Wis.
Black, Joseph,	Fort Kearney,	Neb.
Brock, A. J.,	110 Oliver St., St. Louis,	Mo.
Brown, John G.,	Marshalltown,	Iowa.
Beach, John D.,	Arrapahoe,	Neb.
Bennett, Frank,	Arrapahoe,	Neb.
Bigbee, Columbus C.,	Marengo,	Iowa.
Beers, Barnett,	Coletto,	Ills.
Brown, C. M.,	Girard, Crawford Co.,	Kan.
Burnhap, Charles P.,	Aurora,	Ills.
Buffam, George A.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Burnside, George A.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Bonney, William,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Bonney Samuel,	Canton,	Ills.
Bumaugh, W.,	Sedalia,	Mo.
Bonham, Mack,	Council Bluffs,	Iowa.
Bonham, Barney,	Council Bluffs,	Iowa.
Bell, Stephen R.,	Seville,	Ills.
Beadles, Joseph H.,	Ravanna,	Mo.
Biggs, Washington,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Brazelton, Harry,	Kirkwood,	Ills.
Bloss, George,	Mendota,	Ills.
Barkley, J. C.,	Emporia,	Kan.
Black, J. S.,	Oakland, Coles Co.,	Ills.
Black, W. J.,	Oakland, Coles Co.,	Ills.

Booth, Wm.,	Good Hope,	Ills.
Ball, Harrison,	Fiátt, Fulton Co.	Ills.
Bacey, John,	Corning,	Iowa.
Babbitt, Harry,	Avon,	Ills.
Bogart, Edward,	Mayo Centre, Grundy Co.,	Ills.
Berlin, Jack,	Coal Creek,	Col.
Ball, William,	Brooks,	Kan.
Barrows, George W.,	42 W. Randolph St., Chicago,	Ills.
Barnett, James,	Canton,	Ills.
Bevans, Cor.,	Hiram,	Utah T
Crooker, L. B.,	Mendota,	Ills.
Chandler, T. C.,	266 Wabash Ave., Chicago,	Ills.
Cleveland, R. L.,	Devils Lake,	D. T.
Chase, Ira G. W..	Canton,	D. T.
Corcoron, Edward,	Rockton,	Ills.
Capron, Thad. H.,	Durand,	Ills.
Coy, Geo. C.,	Farragut,	Iowa.
Cox, R. M.,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Cooms, Joseph,	Osage Mission,	Kan.
Coykendall, M. J.,	Riverton,	Iowa.
Curfman, G. W.,	Smithfield,	Ills.
Crooker, J. C.,	Lincoln,	Neb.
Cruch, T. P.,	Harvard,	Neb.
Cloud, Joseph,	393 South Roby St., Chicago,	Ills.
Criss, William,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Clark, John Thomas,	Mendota,	Ills.
Collins, Will,	Ipava,	Ills.
Cox, Michael T.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Coleman, William H.,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Cadwallader, John,	Coin, Paige Co.,	Iowa.
Chesney, W. C.,	Ellisville,	Ills.
Cameron, James A.,	Deland,	Ills.
Carrier, John,	Mason City,	Ills.
Chambers, C.,	78 22d St., Chicago,	Ills.
Cloit, J.,	Alexander,	Neb.
Callison, A. F.,	Council Bluffs,	Iowa.
Coghlin, John,	Dwight,	Ills.
Constantine, Wm.,	Lanark,	Ills.
Doolittle, A. P.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Deems, Joseph,	Amherst,	N. H.
Davis, C. C.,	Waco,	Neb.
Dewey, J. C.,	Henderson,	Ills.
Dean, W. H.,	Pueblo,	Col.
Donner, John,	Delta,	Iowa.
Dickey, H. C.,	Chicago,	Ills.
Ebersold, Fred.,	Chicago,	Ills.
Ebersold, Peter,	Savanna,	Ills.
Ely, J.,	Newton,	Kan.
Eveland, Lorenzo,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Ervine, Elijah,		

Eads, John,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Ewing, Joseph,	Camp Point,	Ills.
Edwards, Joseph,	Coal Creek,	Col.
Emery, J. R.,	Highland Centre,	Iowa.
Fink, Jacob,	Smithfield,	Ills.
Fisher, J. H.,	Spencer,	Iowa.
Fessler, Henry,	Ackley,	Iowa.
Fryer, D. F.,	Oroville,	Cal.
Fisher, Francis P.,	146 La Salle St., Chicago,	Ills.
Fairfield, Augustus,	Odell,	Ills.
Frazier, John F.,	Quincy,	Iowa.
Foss, Samuel,	Scaleville, Warrick Co.,	Ind.
Fleehearty, J. N.,	Winfield,	Kan.
Frye, David J.,	Canton,	Ills.
Fugate, James N.,	Moline,	Ills.
Fluke, C. R.,	Fiat,	Ills.
Filer, Lorenzo,	Noxipater, Winston Co.,	Miss.
Fillmore, John H.,	Aurora,	Neb.
Fingle, C. P.,	Canton,	Ills.
Garner, James C..	Waverly,	Iowa.
Grakey, Augustus,	Long Prairie,	Minn.
Grounds, W.,	Creston,	Iowa.
Gushard, Isaac,	Waterloo,	Iowa.
Goodwin, Earl P.,	Spring Valley,	Minn.
Golden, James,	Creston,	Iowa.
Goodwin, Russell,	Durand,	Ills.
Gillfoil, M.,	Elgin,	Ills.
Gillfoil, John,	Elgin,	Ills.
Gay, James W.,	Delta,	Iowa.
Gaylord, W. E. H.,	Fairgrove,	Mich.
Gay, J. H.,	Maguon,	Ills.
Goodell, Levi,	Mansfield,	Ills.
Garrett, S. S.,	Memphis,	Tenn.
Howe, Liston,	Streator,	Ills.
Howe, O. P.,	Streator,	Ills.
Howe, W. H.,	Braidwood,	Ills.
Howell, Otho H.,	Bellaire,	Ohio.
Hand, Giles,	Shenandoah,	Iowa.
Hurlbut, Henry A.,	Durand,	Ills.
Helgeson, Nels.,	Orfordville,	Wis.
Harris, Edward,	Eden, P. O.,	Iowa.
Hughes, Anthony,	Verona,	Ills.
Hickok, H. T.,	Lake Crystal,	Minn.
Healy, Horace T.,	Milledgville,	Ills.
Hensgar, J.,	Loose Creek,	Mo.
Hiner, J. C.,	Queen City,	Neb.
Harrell, James,	New Philadelphia,	Ills.
Harrell, Wm. J.,	Canton,	Ills.
Hamilton, Charles F.,	51, 36th St., Chicago,	Ills.
Hart, H. L.,	Newton,	Kan.

Hayden, A. R.,	Watkins, Burton Co.,	Iowa.
Hartsook, Joseph,	Davenport,	Iowa.
Hartsook, Daniel,	Davenport,	Iowa.
Haney, M. L.,	Normal,	Ills.
Hebb, Joseph,	Howard City, Elk Co.,	Kan.
Holmes, Newton,	North Henderson,	Ills.
Haney, Henry M.,	Patatuma,	Cal.
Heck, Phillip,	Willmington,	Ills.
Hartman, Aaron,	New London,	Iowa.
Heffernan, J. J.,	Durango,	Col.
Hufferd, James,	Canton,	Ills.
Henderson, J. K.,	Brudo,	Ills.
Joslin, Henry H.,	Durand,	Ills.
Jackson, George W.,	Arrapaho,	Kan.
Jackson, John,	Rochelle,	Ills.
Johnson, J. B.,	Topeka,	Kan.
Johnson, J. A.,	Smithfield,	Ills.
Jones, Abner,	Neola,	Iowa.
Jones, Samuel,	Macomb,	Ills.
Jacob, Nelson,	Liberty Centre,	Iowa.
Jackson, M. H.,	Dallas, Dallas Co.,	Texas.
Keyes, Luther J.,	Nora Springs,	Iowa.
Keyes, Ezra N.,	Darlington,	Wis.
Kayes, James,	Abington,	Ills.
Kutz, William,	La Porte,	Ind.
Kendrick, H. H.,	Fulton,	N. Y.
Kailer, Fred,	Naperville,	Ills.
Keoffer, Henry,	Mendota,	Ills.
Kaisser, Henry,	Waverly,	Iowa.
Knapp, James,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Knott, Joseph A.,	Ellisville,	Ills.
Keffer, J. W.,	Yallaha, Sumpter Co.,	Florida
Kent, Harvey,	Havanna,	Ills.
Larabee, James,	Meriden,	Ills.
Lacey, C. P.,	Wappello,	Iowa.
Lawrence, E. C.,	Boston,	Mass.
Lattimer, Thomas P.,	Shenandoah,	Iowa.
Lomax, W.,	Abington,	Ills.
Lingkenfelter, A.,	Canton,	Ills.
Luckey, G. J.,	Geneseo,	Ills.
Louder, A. J.,	Wyandotte,	Kan.
Louder, James,	Wyandotte,	Kan.
Lowe, Wm.,	Canton,	Ills.
Long, Samuel,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Livermore, Wm. H.,	Washington,	D. C.
Lybarger, Milton,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Lybarger, Lilburn,	Adair,	Ills.
Lenhart, Isaiah,	Good Hope,	Ills.
McAuley, John T.,	161 La Salle St., Chicago,	Ills.
McGraw, Thomas J.,	Mt. Carroll,	Ills.

Mahan, Michael,	Hasselton,	Iowa.
McCumber, Orville,	Lewiston,	Ills.
McIntosh, Daniel,	North Topeka,	Kan.
Muzzy, Caleb,	DeKalb,	Ills.
McCready, J. M.,	Goldunsey, Saline Co.,	Neb.
McCready, Sargent,	Tobias,	Neb.
McKeighan, David,	114 York St., Cleveland,	Ohio.
May, W. D.,	Canton,	Ills.
Maranville, Charles,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Maxwell, Charles,	Cuba,	Ills.
Maxwell, Daniel,	Weldon,	Iowa.
Melrose, James,	Weldon,	Iowa.
Maxwell, R. A.,	Canton,	Ills.
Morris, Asa,	Fiatt,	Ills.
Mathena, Joseph,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Morey, Harvey,	Marietta,	Ills.
Mead, A.,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Mosher, Daniel,	Henniston,	Iowa.
Moore, O.,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Moneymaker, Wm.,	Wataya, Knox Co.,	Ills.
Mellen, John,	La Salle,	Ills.
Murray, Sidney S.,	Ontario,	Ills.
Mullaley, Barney,	Seneca,	Ills.
McCumber, Wm.,	Bucklin,	Mo.
Mills, J. H.,	Blue Mound, Linn Co.,	Kan.
Morford, Jerome J.,	Herber, Cloud Co.,	Kan.
Moneymaker, William,	Alexis, Mercer Co.,	Ills.
Miller, George,	Monmouth,	Ills.
Mernick, John D.,	Industry,	Ills.
Moore, Albertson,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Miller, Charles,	Durango,	Col.
Mitchell, M.,	Fiatt,	Ills.
Mathena, David J.,	Lancaster,	Kan.
Nourse, Henry S.,	Forreston,	Mass.
Nikirk, Francis M.,	Georgetown,	Ills.
Nash, Samuel,	Savanna,	Col.
Naramore, Frank,	Oregon,	Georgia
Neece, James H.,	Ellisville,	Mo.
Notte, Joseph A.,	Canton,	Ills.
Negley, Daniel O.,	Longmont,	Ills.
Newkirk, A. W.,	Henry,	Col.
Newell, O. W.,	Harrison,	Ills.
Oliver, Robert,	Stewart,	Ills.
Osborne, John,	Osceola,	Iowa.
Peterson, M. C.,	Rockford,	Iowa.
Partch, O. H.,	Brooking,	Ills.
Partch, A. E.,	3 22nd St., Chicago,	D. T.
Potter, M. M.,	Omaha,	Ills.
Presson, J. H.,	Friendville,	Neb.
Presson, J.,		Neb.

Pritchard, Beig,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Parks, J.,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Pollett, George,	Liverpool,	Ills.
Putney, John,	Fountainville,	Iowa.
Porter, E. J.,	Equity, Anderson Co.,	Kan.
Parden, Albert F.,	Galesburg,	Ills.
Parker, George,	Liverpool,	Ills.
Palmetter, Jesse,	What Cheer,	Iowa.
Roberts, Peter,	Washington,	Iowa.
Reinhol, Henry,	Waterloo,	Iowa.
Roler, E. O. F.,	2330 Indiana Ave., Chicago,	Ills.
Reiggior, Henry,	Netwaka,	Kan.
Russell, George W.,	Greene,	Iowa.
Rockwood, I. B.,	Beloit,	Wis.
Reed, Reuben P.,	Polo,	Ills.
Ridenour, J. B.,	Woodhull,	Ills.
Rhodemeyer, Henry,	Hampton,	Iowa.
Riley, Wm A. V.,	Beloit,	Wis.
Riley, Roswell J.,	Topeka,	Kan.
Riley, James	Webster City,	Iowa.
Redfern, Mark,	Birney Dolt,	Ills.
Robbins, James F.,	Canton,	Ills.
Roberts, J. R.,	Hornerstown,	N. J.
Reed, Ameno.	Prairie City,	Ills.
Randolph, W. H.,	Edina,	Mo.
Smith, J. August,	Forreston,	Ills.
Slattery, T.,	Onarga,	Ills.
Smith, J. L.,	Cedar Rapids,	Iowa.
Smith, H. A.,	174 Superior St , Cleveland,	Ohio.
Sanders, C. K ,	Turner Junction,	Ills.
Schultz, Theodore,	Wyandotte,	Kan.
Simcox, Jacob,	Neal, Greenwood Co.,	Kan.
Snook, William,	Box 26, Mayfair, Cook Co.,	Ills.
Smith, D. B ,	Mt. Carroll,	Ills.
Smith, Fredrick.	Utica,	Ills.
Scott, Francis,	Goshen, Orange Co.,	N. Y.
Songster, C. A.,	Exeter,	Neb.
Shoup, Hazel D.,	Newton,	Kan.
Shinnaman, John,	Ashland,	Ohio.
Sanford, Jacob,	Prairie City,	Ills.
Shaw, Hiram,	Bryant,	Ills.
Schliech, Peter,	Fairview,	Ills.
Sowles, J. M.,	Gault,	Ills.
Stewart, S.,	Shelbyville,	Iowa.
Shreeves, Sergt.,	Oregon, Holt Co.,	Mo.
Shaw, Francis H.,	Leominster,	Mass.
Sterling, L. W.,	Smithfield,	Ills.
Seebree, Preston,	Canton,	Ills.
Smith, Harrison,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Sprague, S. S.,	Carroll,	Iowa.

Seebree, James S.,	Pierce,	D. T.
Smith, H.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Samuelson, Andrew,	Chicago,	Ills.
Sherman, S. M.,	Linwood, Anoka Co.,	Minn.
Sperling, Theodore,	Sciota,	Ills.
Sweringer, Barnett,	Silver Lake,	Kan.
Sanford, Ebenezer,	West Dayton,	Iowa.
Smith, J. K.,	Cedar Rapids,	Iowa.
Spencer, Wm.,	Proctorville,	Mo.
Scanlon, Thomas,	Avon,	Ills.
Slattery, T.,	Jewell,	Kan.
Slattery, P.,	Kinsman,	Ills.
Smith, Fred,	Elkhart,	Ind.
Saville, Edward,	Canton,	Ills.
Small, A. F.,	Canton,	Ills.
Smith, Martin,	West Union,	Iowa.
Simmons, Edward,	Atkinson,	Neb.
Shields, John,		Col.
Shields, Daniel,		Col.
Taylor, B. F.,	Marshalltown,	Iowa.
Turney, Charles G.,	Beloit,	Wis.
Thielo, Charles,	Mendota,	Ills.
Taylor, Richard,	Buenavista,	Col.
Tompkins, C. B.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Tompkins, John.	Elmwood,	Ills.
Tertsworth, O. P.,	Bushnell,	Ills.
Thompson, Tommy,	Eddyville,	Iowa.
Vanderwert, Charles.	Burlington,	Iowa.
Van Buskirk, Charles,	La Salle,	Ills.
Vaughn, Job.	Columbus,	Kan.
Vaughn, James,	Peoria,	Ills.
Wright, James M ,	Kempton,	Ills.
Wright, George,	Vermillion,	D. T.
Wright, Asa S.,	Vermillion,	D. T.
Wright, George D.,	Rockford,	Ills.
Woodring, Henry,	Waverly,	Iowa
Wood, Chas. B.,	Bellevue, Eaton Co.,	Mich.
Warden, John,	Chicago.	Ills.
Welch, Edward,	Wappello,	Iowa.
Wilcox, R. R.,	Milford,	Iowa.
Winnie, Charles,	Sandwich,	Ills.
Weldon, Jack,	Barora, Grundy Co.,	Ills.
West, Charles,	Utica,	Ills.
Whipple, Albert A.,	Denver,	Col.
Witter, George E.,	Grafton,	Neb.
Wilson, William,	Tuscola, Douglas Co ,	Ills.
Waddell, William,	Canton,	Ills.
White, James,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Whittle, Charles,	New Philadelphia,	Ills.
Whilhelm, William,	New Philadelphia,	Ills.

Wheeler, Myron,	Fayette,	Ills.
Williams, A. A.,	Bernadotte,	Ills.
Wetzel, A. B.,	Adair,	Ills.
Wetzel, Daniel,	New Philadelphia,	Ills.
Walker, A. J.,	Arnold,	Neb.
Walters, George,	Mendota,	Ills.
Wheeler, J. P.,	Cuba,	Ills.
Wheeler, Joseph,	Blandsville,	Ills.
Weeden, William,	Ogden, Boone Co.,	Iowa.
White, M.,	Lewiston,	Ills.
Wellington, H.,	Waco,	Neb.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRINTING.

Upon the adjournment of our first Re-union, held at Canton, Ills. Oct. 30th and 31st, 1884, the undersigned found themselves a Committee intrusted with the duty of publishing and distributing to every surviving comrade the proceedings of that re-union, together with various papers read there. This would have been indeed an easy task, had there been in the Treasury adequate funds to meet the necessary expenses; but the Treasury was empty. Believing in the adage, "*Pay as you go,*" we adjusted ourselves to the work of raising the necessary money to meet the expense; and in furtherance of this work had circulars printed, and sent out Dec. 15th, 1884, to every comrade, whose address was known. After waiting until Feb. 2nd, 1885, for responses to this first appeal, and having received in answer only \$39.50, we had printed and sent to all comrades, who had not responded, a second circular, setting forth the facts, and urging immediate reply. Up to the date of this Report there has been received on this double appeal, the sum of \$82.50. An accurate account has been kept of this subscription fund; and comrades who have so sent in their orders and money will have them filled first, so that if the edition is exhausted before all are supplied the disappointment will fall on others. Your Committee could not know just how many copies would be wanted. Some comrades have ordered two copies and some more, and in order that all might be supplied, we have contracted for an edition of 500 copies. Due economy has been observed in making contracts and expenditures in the work entrusted to us, and we hope the result will meet the approval of all who are interested. The cost of printing and distributing the pamphlets, will be as follows:

500 copies of 68 pages.....	\$102 00
Expense of printing 3 circulars.....	11 00
Postages and envelopes for 1st circular.....	5 00
Cost of mailing pamphlet to comrades, (estimated)...	10 00
 Total.....	 \$128 00

It will thus be seen that there is still required the sum of \$45.50, to meet the actual expense of printing and distributing the book, and your Committee have gone forward in full confidence that this amount will immediately be realized from new subscriptions. A circular has just been mailed to all who have not yet responded, notifying them that the book is ready for delivery and requesting them to send their orders (together with the money) at once to our Secretary, H. H. Joslin, Durand, Ills.

Your Committee deemed it important to present, in connection with the Treasurers' Report, (see page 54), a detailed statement of receipts and expenditures, but up to this time have not succeeded in obtaining it. They submit the following partial list of monies received, as furnished from the books of the Secretary, which monies were turned

over to Treasurer Harrell, and are included in the \$137.55, reported by him as received.

Contributed previous to the Re-union, as follows:

F. H. Shaw	\$10 00
Samuel Nash.....	5 00
Francis P. Fisher.....	5 00
D. F. Fryer.....	2 00
O. P. Howe	2 00
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Total	\$24 00

Membership fees received at the Re-union, as follows:

J. Hartsook,	\$1 00	M. C. Peterson,	I 00
W. D. Lomax,	1 00	H. H. Joslin,	I 00
D. N. Holmes,	1 00	Edward Saville,	I 00
J. W. Kayes,	1 00	J. W. Parks,	I 00
John Weldon,	1 00	Amenzo Reed,	I 00
Geo. W. Curfman,	1 00	Theodore Wilhelm,	I 00
A. R. Hayden,	1 00	Nels Helgeson,	I 00
W. H. Lowe,	1 00	Pat Slattery,	I 00
C. A. Songster,	1 00	C. R. Fluke,	I 00
Thomas P. Latimer,	1 00	C. G. Turney,	I 00
George W. Barrows,	1 00	S. Long,	I 00
John Averill,	1 00	W. D. May,	I 00
E. A. Dewey,	1 00	Francis P. Fisher,	I 00
J. A. Knott,	1 00	Asa Morris,	I 00
H. Goodsall,	1 00	A. B. Wetzel,	I 00
J. A. Vaughn,	1 00	J. W. Cadwallader,	I 00
M. Mitchell,	1 00	Henry Kaisser,	I 00
O. McCumber,	1 00	D. W. Wetzel,	I 00
S. R. Bell,	1 00	A. F. Paden,	I 00
John Carrier,	1 00	J. W. Larabee,	I 00
A. B. Maxwell,	1 00	James Knapp,	I 00
D. C. Andress,	1 00	H. C. Mory,	I 00
J. D. Merrick,	1 00	Peter Ebersold,	I 00
W. J. Harrell,	1 00	Robert Oliver,	I 00
J. H. Presson,	1 00	Henry Reiggor,	I 00
F. M. Smith,	1 00	Joseph Austin,	I 00
Jacob Fink,	1 00	J. T. McAuley,	I 00
Peter Schleich,	1 00	Fred Ebersold,	I 00
J. C. Hiner,	1 00	Wm. Grounds,	I 00
G. Witter,	1 00	Theo. Schultz,	I 00
J. G. Brown,	1 00	J. C. Garner,	I 00
C. B. Fingle,	1 00	R. M. Cox,	I 00
G. C. Coy,	1 00	D. J. Matheny,	I 00
J. L. Burnside,	1 00	J. F. Robbins,	I 00
J. Abbott,	1 00	C. C. Bigbee,	I 00
Geo. Luckey,	1 00	S. S. Murray,	I 00
Levi Goodell,	1 00		
Henry Kent,	1 00	Total,	\$74 00

The above list is only partial, and comrades, who have paid their membership fees and whose names do not appear on the above list, will doubtless find proper credit on the books of the Treasurer.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOSEPH HARTSOOK,
JOHN. G. BROWN,
FRANCIS P. FISHER,
H. H. JOSLIN,

{ Committee on
Printing.

Chicago, May 25th, 1885.



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